

Iraqis told to accept allies' three-stage withdrawal plan by this evening or face all-out war

Bush gives Saddam final ultimatum

Kremlin still pressing separate proposals

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday gave Iraq until 5pm today to pull out of Kuwait, or face a ground war. Within hours of the ultimatum being issued, the Soviet Union announced that Iraq's foreign minister had agreed a revised six-point plan to end the conflict, including an immediate withdrawal.

However, the Soviet plan is still unlikely to satisfy the allies as it still offers no guarantees on the sovereignty of Kuwait, the return of its legitimate government or on war reparations.

Announcing his ultimatum yesterday afternoon, Mr Bush declared: "The coalition will give Saddam Hussein until noon Saturday (5pm GMT) to do what he must do - begin his immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. We must hear publicly and authoritatively his acceptance of these terms."

Mr Bush accused Iraq of sending contradictory messages: it was initiating a scorched earth policy, wantonly setting fire to and destroying Kuwaiti oil facilities while outwardly pursuing a Soviet peace plan. Mr Bush

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said the time had therefore come to spell out exactly what was required if a ground war is to be avoided. If Saddam failed to comply fully, he risked subjecting the Iraqi people to "further hardship".

The White House later gave a detailed three-stage definition of the unconditional withdrawal which it was demanding as the price of not retaking Kuwait by force. By 5pm today, Iraq must send a representative to the UN, officially announce its decision to withdraw and begin that withdrawal. By 5pm on Monday, Iraqi troops must have left Kuwait City and the oil fields and islands and have released all prisoners of war. By next Saturday, the withdrawal must be complete.

Mr Bush told President Gorbachev in an hour-long telephone call yesterday that the allies were also calling for a cessation of hostilities against Israel, co-operation in clearing mines and an end to all Iraqi flights over Kuwait except those transporting troops back home. In return, coalition forces would not attack "civilian targets" and would "exercise restraint".

"This goes to Saddam Hussein," the White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, said. "The ball is in his court. Any breach of the terms would produce an 'instant and sharp response'. A senior Pentagon official said the ground attack would be 'such as the world has never seen and should never want to see'."

The Soviet solution, a refinement of the eight-point plan announced late on Thursday night, calls for an immediate withdrawal without conditions, to be supervised by the UN and completed in 21 days. Prisoners of war would be released within 72 hours and the UN resolutions would be rescinded after withdrawal.

The proposals were agreed during talks in Moscow between Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, his Soviet counterpart. Mr Gorbachev later contacted the permanent members of the UN Security Council to discuss the plan.

Asked about the Soviet reaction to Mr Bush's ultimatum, Mr Gorbachev's spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said: "It's the proposal just outlined."

Mr Gorbachev's deputy spokesman, Sergei Grigoriev, had earlier said that Mr Bush's reaction to the Moscow talks and fears that Saddam was using them as a delaying tactic were understandable. "We all know that it's getting harder and harder to trust Saddam Hussein and that is why probably this is some kind of a litmus test for Mr Hussein's commitments."

John Major last night echoed Mr Bush's insistence that Saddam must "authoritative-

ly and publicly" acknowledge that he would implement the UN resolutions. "That is what we require of him," he said. "We are really not prepared to be strong along any longer. It is not in the interests of Kuwait, it is not in the interests of armed forces and it is not in the interests of the whole territory. I hope he recognises that."

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting of the war cabinet after cutting short a visit to Northern Ireland, said that the coalition's demands were not negotiable. "Iraq now know precisely what they have to do. I hope they recognise we are not prepared to bargain with them."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said he did not think it likely that Saddam Hussein would accept the ultimatum.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said they would all have liked to have seen more time for the Soviet diplomatic efforts. The problem was that there seemed to be two Iraqi policies: the policy of Tariq Aziz in negotiation with President Gorbachev and the policy of Saddam who made belligerent broadcasts and appeared to be intent on destroying the whole of Kuwait's oil production.

The French government backed the ultimatum. The foreign minister, Roland Dumas, said that there was complete agreement between the allies and that President Mitterrand had spoken to Mr Bush just after the deadline had been set in Washington.

At the Pentagon, a senior military official said the diplomatic activity was not derailing the allied war plans. "Desert Storm continues to swirl on, regardless. We have our plan and we continue to follow it. Round-the-clock air attacks continue."

Iraq claimed yesterday that the ground offensive had begun, but this was quickly denied by the allies. "If Iraq is keeping to the conclusion that a ground war has begun based on artillery fire from a single (British) division, then they clearly don't understand the true fire power of the coalition forces," one American defence official said. "When the ground battle starts, we will all know. It will involve such an overwhelming surge of fire power."

Pierre Joxe, the French defence minister, said it could be only hours away. "The start of land operations is now programmed. It is a question of a few hours," he said.



Desert watch: an Egyptian soldier looks through a gap in a berm, an artificial sandbank, across the Kuwaiti frontier towards the Iraqi lines

Scorched-earth policy wrecking Kuwaiti oilfields, says America

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush said yesterday that Saddam Hussein, anticipating his forced ejection from Kuwait, had launched a "scorched earth" policy aimed at destroying the entire Kuwaiti oil industry.

Saddam was "wantonly setting fire to, and destroying the oil wells, the oil tanks, the export terminals and other installations of that small country," Mr Bush declared.

American intelligence estimates showed that the Iraqis had destroyed more than 149 of Kuwait's 950 oil wells and the facilities attached in all the major oil fields in the previous 24 hours. Thick columns of smoke covered about 25 per cent of Kuwait's oil fields, Brigadier-General Richard Neal, Centcom's director of operations, said.

This was "orchestrated, systematic destruction... it looks like he is carrying out what he has said on several occasions. He is carrying out his policy of destroying Kuwait."

General Neal said the smoke could slightly hamper

some military action but "we are not concerned that it would seriously interrupt any operations now or in the future". Coalition forces had "prepared to operate in that environment". Some weeks ago Saddam had set fire to a small number of oil wells in an apparent attempt to hide his troops from allied warplanes.

General Neal would not speculate on Saddam's motives this time, but Kuwait's refusal to curb oil production and thereby boost world prices was one of the grievances cited by an impoverished Iraq to justify the August 2 invasion. One of Saddam's first actions after the invasion was thought to be the wiring of Kuwait's oil production facilities with explosives.

General Neal would not say if the coalition was taking action to prevent further destruction, but Saddam's implementation of a "scorched earth" policy would clearly give Mr Bush a strong pretext for swiftly launching a ground offensive despite the Soviet

peace initiative. There was no way of independently corroborating the American statements.

Experts said yesterday that it would cost a small fortune to rebuild the Kuwaiti oil industry, and Saddam's deliberate acts of destruction will make it still more likely that the United Nations will insist he pays war reparations.

However, the oil experts said that as no oil has been exported from either Kuwait or Iraq for six months, the destruction of the Kuwaiti oil industry would have little impact on world prices. "If anything, the news that the Kuwaiti repairs were going ahead very promptly would probably have a depressing effect on prices, with the market looking forward to additional crude when there is already plenty on the market," said Foster Mellen, an oil analyst.

Nor did they believe that the fields would burn indefinitely, threatening another environmental disaster. In most Kuwaiti fields, the oil stays underground because of low pressure, and fires would therefore die for lack of oxygen.

Kuwait has seven major oil fields with nearly 1,000 wells, four refineries and at least two main export terminals. Those figures do not include production facilities in a neutral zone owned jointly by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, part of which is occupied by Iraqi troops.

In 1989, the last complete year of production, Kuwait produced roughly 1.5 million barrels of oil a day and accounted for about three per cent of the world's oil production. It has about nine per cent of world crude reserves.

"Under a real crash rebuilding programme, you could get production back close to pre-war levels in 12 to 18 months," said David Mangan, a contributing editor to the *Oil Daily Energy Compass* maga-

zine. Mr Mellen estimated it would take between nine months and two years, depending on the availability of engineers and material, to repair the wells.

The Kuwaitis believe rebuilding their country could cost anywhere up to \$100 billion (£50 billion), and are thought to have earmarked between \$20-\$40 billion for reconstruction of the oil industry, depending on how extensively it had been destroyed.

● RIYADH: Saudi troops crossed six miles behind the front lines and cleared a path through an Iraqi minefield as part of preparations for a ground offensive, a Saudi military spokesman said yesterday. He said the Saudi patrol removed and defused 75 Iraqi landmines.

Anger as steel jobs are lost

By KERRY GILL

ANGER and dismay was expressed last night after British Steel announced it was cutting 1,100 steelworkers' jobs at Ravenscraig, near Motherwell. More than 3,000 job losses have been announced in the Scottish steel industry in the last six months.

Shop stewards at the plant said steel production north of the Border would be finished within 12 months. The Lanarkshire Development Agency called for immediate government aid.

British Steel is to reduce the plant to a single blast furnace because of a worldwide fall in demand and weak prices. Production will be cut from 36,000 tonnes a week to less than 22,000 tonnes.

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TODAY

Elementary geography

Lynne Truss discovers the secret of getting into a London-based television series about Sherlock Holmes: move to Preston
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Not quite the new Olivier

Simon Callow was expected to take on the Olivier mantle, instead he explored other avenues and is now as likely to be found in the director's chair as on stage
SATURDAY REVIEW

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Ulster visit by Major

John Major made his first official visit to Northern Ireland yesterday and used the manager's phone at a small factory to telephone President Bush for urgent consultations on the Gulf war... Page 5
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Tourist turmoil

Britain's tourist trade needs an economic recovery of near miraculous proportions and a speedy end to the Gulf conflict to avoid calamity... Page 8

Threat to Yeltsin

The Russian parliament has called Boris Yeltsin to a meeting on March 28 at which Communist hardliners look certain to demand his resignation... Page 10

Power price

The government has priced shares in National Power and PowerGen, at 175p each, valuing the two companies at a total of £3.6 billion when they come to the stock market next month... Page 46
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Dalglish: "burn-out might be temporary"

Dalglish blows whistle on life at the Kop

By JOHN GOODBODY

KENNY Dalglish, at the age of 39 and earning £200,000 a year as the most successful post-war football manager in Britain, amazed the sporting world yesterday by resigning from Liverpool FC, citing pressure as the reason. His team, the reigning league champions, are three points clear at the top of the first division, still in the FA Cup and on course for a return to European soccer next season.

During his five years as manager, Dalglish won the championship three times and the FA Cup twice, including the double. As a player, he represented Scotland 102 times and was an outstanding goalscorer for his Merseyside club. Announcing his departure, Dalglish said: "It was the pressure I was putting myself under in the desire to be

successful. I felt it would be wrong to mislead everybody in thinking everything was fine with myself. There is no animosity between the club and me."

He said that he had pushed himself to the limit and it was the first time since he joined Liverpool in 1977 that he had made a decision that was more in favour of himself than the club. There were indications last night, however, that Dalglish's decision was partly due to the criticism within the club of his reluctance to pick Peter Beardsley, the England forward, regularly in recent weeks.

There is no precedent in English football for such a successful manager to walk away from a club in mid-season. Being manager of Liverpool with the expectations of half the city weighing down on you, is a particular burden. As Bill Shankley, the former manager, said: "Football is not a matter of life and

death. It is far more serious than that." Brian Miller, a sports psychologist, described Dalglish's state as "burn-out": the rewards for coping no longer justifying the commitment. Miller said that leisure time was important and managers should try to get away from the game during the close season.

Yesterday Dalglish adopted this policy by playing golf with Tommy Smith, former Liverpool defender. Smith said: "It was about time Kenny had a rest. Shankley, Paisley and Fagan all went for the same reason. The job just became too much for them."

Miller said that burn-out was a temporary condition. If so, in six months Dalglish may well be recharged and back in the game with half the clubs in Europe queuing up for him.

End of an era, page 25

Nobody knows what to do with women my age. But I am doing something about it. I've carved out this place for myself where I admit I'm fifty-six, love it, and am willing to play it," she says. "Hell, my juices didn't even get going until I was forty."



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Amphibious force ready to strike at Iraqi army

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN AMERICAN marine amphibious force was poised in the Gulf, ready for action should the allies go ahead with a ground offensive. Major-General Henry Jenkins, commander of the amphibious force, said he would try to avoid a direct attack on Iraqi defences on Kuwaiti beaches. He said many Iraqi troops had been moved in to defend the Kuwaiti coast.

General Jenkins outlined options for the amphibious force that included a full-scale landing, limited operations, or even a decoy assault or feint to tie down Iraqi troops on the coast while allied forces launched attacks inland. He said he expected heavy resistance. "The Iraqi army is not down and out. They are hurting, no doubt about that. But I would not count them out," he said.

Yesterday Baghdad suffered

its first daylight air bombardment for two weeks. Correspondents in the Iraqi capital said the first explosions from a 45-minute raid echoed across the city shortly after sirens waited at 10.30am.

Baghdad's 57th military command claimed yesterday that Iraqi forces had repelled a British attack after nearly three hours of fighting. Iraqi troops were said to have destroyed most of the British equipment and forced the soldiers to flee. It did not say where the fighting took place.

British sources in London denied that Britain's 1st Armoured Division had been involved in ground action. There were, however, a number of border incidents. US marines were reported to have launched a "raid" on Iraqi positions across the border from southern Saudi Arabia.

Allied forces continued yesterday with preparations for a ground offensive despite the new Iraqi peace offer, firing bombs and artillery shells on Iraqi positions. The US command said allied aircraft launched 1,000 sorties on Thursday against targets in southern Iraq and Kuwait.

Ground and air attacks increase

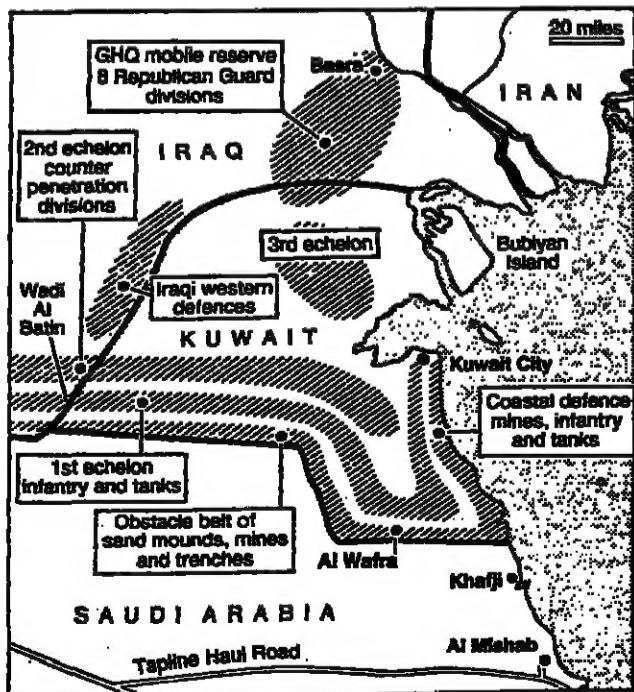
From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE allies yesterday stepped up ground and air operations against the Iraqi army in Kuwait but senior commanders dismissed claims broadcast by Baghdad radio that the much heralded ground war had already begun.

Officers said that the claim had been based on a British artillery attack along a ten-mile front mounted by a force of 1,600 men, indicating that the Iraqis were out of touch with the reality of the coalition's fire power. "When the land assault does begin, there will be no way that anybody out there will be able to mistake it," an American officer said.

The terrain inside Kuwait is shaking with the continual heavy thump of artillery shells and rockets from multiple launchers as well as the allied bombing campaign. By night-fall yesterday, 1,000 sorties had been flown against targets in the occupied emirate alone, believed to be the highest number directed there in a single 24-hour period. A further 1,700 were flown against targets in Iraq.

It is understood that allied officers have been pressing Washington to start the ground war as they believe they can destroy significant quantities of Iraqi armour and impose a humiliating defeat. (This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)



Bartering armies turn desert into expensive bazaar

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE Saudi desert has been transformed into a cross between a swap shop and an overpriced Arab bazaar as a result of the influx of 600,000 foreign troops poised for an attack on Kuwait.

Bartering has often been the main point of contact between soldiers of different allied armies. In this war, American camp beds, British jungle-style combat jackets and French field rations are the most sought-after items. Each box of French rations comes with soup stock, tinned cheese and fuel tablets for cooking. There have even been reports of some American units willing to trade weaponry for an adequate supply.

For once, the Americans are at a disadvantage because nobody wants

to barter for their despised rations, known officially as Meals Ready to Eat (MREs). "The French told us they would not serve MREs even to their prisoners of war," said Chris Jusiewicz, an American soldier from Massachusetts.

An American sergeant near the front line said: "Sometimes it goes too far and gets into the illegal stuff, but a lot of it is just the pleasure of trading." The swapping includes anything from camouflage nets to "alice packs", the rucksack covers used to keep sand out of weapons. British Desert Rat paraphernalia has proved a favourite among the French and American troops, but large quantities have to be exchanged for just one American army-issue aluminium and canvas fold-up bed. British chemical protection gear is much favoured by the Americans, but rarely is there enough

spare for exchanges. Some of the highest value trading commodities in such a strictly Islamic nation are smuggled pornographic magazines and alcohol, which is occasionally sent in aftershave bottles by relatives. One enterprising British soldier is reported to have brought in more than 300 magazines in his Challenger tank from Germany.

The good humour which marks most of the swapping is not matched along the main northern highway where Arab shopkeepers have doubled and tripled prices of popular items as American troops have moved closer to the front. Foam mattresses that sold for \$3 (£1.50) a month ago now sell for \$12. A carton of foreign cigarettes has more than doubled to \$15 and a box of 24 chocolate bars has increased from \$6 to \$15. The increases have infuriated

many soldiers and strained relations with the Arabs. "They have no morals to do this," complained Private Elizabeth Sandels at one of the stalls which have mushroomed around the scattered petrol stations along the desert highway. "We put ourselves on the line; all they can think about is making money," she said.

In the small border town of al-Sadwi, Specialist Julian Edwards, from the Bronx, said: "These places are just ripping us off. I hate every one of these people. We come here to help out, and all they want is our money." Arab shopkeepers have been amazed to find buyers willing to pay the asking price rather than haggle. "Some of these Americans seem as though they have never been abroad before," said the owner of a souvenir shop in the port of al-Jubail, the main allied logistics centre.



Time out: American soldiers of the 7th Infantry Battalion relaxing in a trench near the front line on the Kuwaiti border with Saudi Arabia yesterday. They were enjoying a "stand down" day, during which they could rest, play basketball and even tuck in to a steak lunch

JORDAN

Husain drops Palestine linkage

From RICHARD BEESTON IN AMMAN

KING Husain of Jordan yesterday appeared to abandon any notion of linking a solution to the Gulf conflict with the Arab-Israeli question.

Speaking before President Bush's ultimatum to Iraq and Washington's rejection of the Soviet peace proposals, the king appealed to the leaders of the world to consider the interests of their people involved in the conflict. "Too many wounds have been opened. This is a time to begin to heal them. Too many losses have occurred. This is a time to put an end to these losses," he said.

Although he described the Soviet plan as the start of a better future for the Middle East, he appeared to signal a substantial change in Jordan's policy when he was asked about the Arab-Israeli conflict and a solution to the Palestinian question. Most of his subjects are Palestinians. "Let's leave that out of it now," King Husain said, adding that the issue should be addressed on its own merits and not tackled with the Gulf question.

The king, along with the PLO and most Palestinians and Jordanians, actively supported President Saddam Hussein primarily because Iraq was seen as the only Arab force capable of fighting Israel and standing up to the West, and willing to do so. Although Iraq tried to make a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute a precondition to peace in the Gulf, it appeared to abandon its Palestinian supporters when it accepted the Soviet proposals, which make no mention of their cause. King Husain's remarks signalled acceptance that "linkage" between the two Middle Eastern conflicts has been abandoned, at least for the moment.

In Jordan, Palestinian reaction to Iraq's change of position and King Husain's remarks was one of disappointment concealed beneath a veneer of continued defiance against the West. For the first time in weeks, there were no pro-Iraq demonstrations in Amman after Friday prayers and some Palestinians admitted privately that they were deeply disappointed by what they regarded as the capitulation by Iraq.

Gunners hold key to victory

By JOHN YOUNG

FOR centuries artillery, "the Queen of the Battlefield", has played a decisive role in war and is still widely regarded as the main battle-winning element. Some notable leaders have disagreed to their cost, among them first world war generals who declared that victory would be won by the cavalry.

A common view is that the purpose of an artillery bombardment is to soften up the enemy and to destroy his morale before the infantry assault. But Terry Gander, joint editor of *Jane's Military Logistics*, strongly disagrees, pointing out that today's highly mobile and astonishingly accurate guns are the key element in any land war.

In contrast to the Iraqis, who are equipped with a wide variety of guns, mostly Russian but also from Austria and South Africa, the British and Americans are relying mainly on various versions of the M109, made in America.

The M109 typically has a range of about 12 miles; some of the Soviet-made guns can fire twice as far. But the closer the more accurate, and the allies' guns are not thought to be more than about six or seven miles from the Iraqi lines. As for accuracy, "We're not talking about hitting the middle sumat," Mr Gander said. "But the shells can be targeted to within the dimensions of a cricket pitch."

Even in this era of high

technology, considerable reliance is placed on the forward observer, in a vehicle or a foxhole, to identify the target and call the range. His advice can, however, be supplemented by aerial photographs, pilotless "drone" aircraft and helicopters.

Information on the precise relative positions of the enemy and the allied guns is then fed into a computer, which supplies instructions to the various fire-control centres. Each battery, comprising between six and eight guns, has its own control centre.

The guns are supplemented by multiple rocket launchers

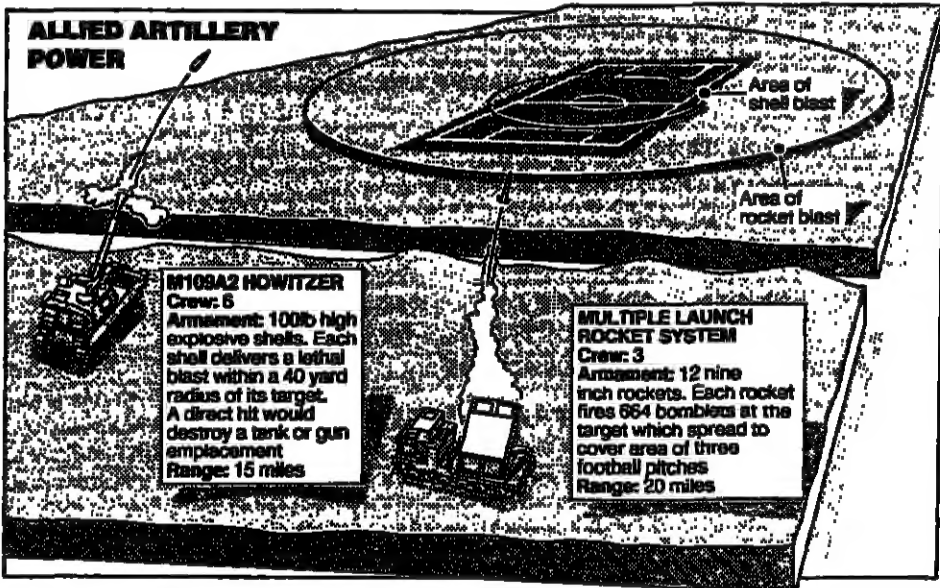
which spray "bomblets" over an area as large as three football pitches (about 300 by 200 yards). They are known as area denial weapons and are primarily intended to force the enemy to take cover.

Although "static" guns towed on trailers are still in use by elements of the military, such as the marines and the airborne division, those employed by the Royal Artillery rely on rapid mobility. Once the gun, or the highly conspicuous rocket launcher, has opened fire, its position is revealed and it is vulnerable to counter-fire unless it moves quickly.

For artillerymen it is a physically demanding task. Each shell, weighing about 100lb, has to be loaded manually into the breech.

Blast and shrapnel from an M109 shell extends over a radius of about 40 yards. Shells can be programmed, by means of time fuses or radio signals, to explode in the air above the target or on impact.

A tank or other armoured vehicle would be destroyed by a direct hit and probably would be disabled by a shell landing in the immediate vicinity. People within the 40-yard radius would almost certainly be killed instantly.



Countdown to land war stopped

From REUTERS IN NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE allied countdown to G-Day, the day when the ground war was to start, was apparently stopped when Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, flew to Moscow to discuss the Soviet proposal for withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

Military sources said the allied forces had set a date for the ground war, although US officials denied this earlier in the week. The deadline is only a few days away and frontline units have been told to prepare to move north if Baghdad fails to begin withdrawing.

"All units know when it is going to happen," said a military official. "If he (Saddam Hussein) doesn't pull out, the mother of all battles is about to happen and he is not going to like it."

RAF keeps up the air battle

From LIN JENKINS WITH THE RAF IN THE GULF

THE television set was silenced, turned off for almost the first time since Desert Storm began, as the deafening roar from the runway outside signalled the start of another RAF bombing raid against Iraq's military machine.

Air crews preparing for take-off avoided the distraction of following diplomatic news aimed at peace. Hours earlier the base had become the new target of a Saudi missile attack, bringing a sharp reminder that the war was still in progress.

Watching as the stony-faced pilots and navigators walked towards a line of salmon-pink Tornados, Group Captain David Henderson explained that as far as the base was concerned there was a job to be done and it remained as dangerous as ever. No one had forgotten that four Tornados had failed to return from missions. His words were reinforced by ground crews manoeuvring the laser-guided

"smart" bombs on to the aircraft. "We are very much here to fight the air battle as we are directed to. That's what we are continuing to do while all the political moves are going on," the group captain and commander of the largest RAF detachment in the Gulf, said. "Now that the weather has

improved we are making a significant contribution with the targets we are taking out. Each of the coalition aircraft will be attacking high priority targets so we can really pin him down and make sure that his capability is as much reduced as possible."

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

Versatile sappers show off skills

From PHILIP JACOBSON WITH 7TH ARMoured BRIGADE

ARMY engineers tend to be a breed to be more retiring than soldiers in the flashier units, but their presence on the battlefield when the allied assault on Iraqi defences in Kuwait begins will be felt at every level of operations.

Clearing minefields or laying new ones under fire, breaking through obstacles, digging huge pits for Challenger tanks or scraping out a forward air strip is all grist to the mill for the Royal Engineers: they can comfortably claim the title of the most versatile troops in this and any other front line.

In the words of Lieutenant-Colonel John Moore-Bick, who commands 21 Engineer Regiment, "with the sappers you could get three soldiers for the price of one".

Colonel Moore-Bick took time off from the final preparations for war to give us a brisk parade of some of the specialised equipment his men expect to be using. With pride, he explained that each and every soldier under his command was at once a combat engineer, trained infantryman and master of at least one trade for which the army will certainly find a use.

"There are plumbers and electricians, carpenters and sheet-metal workers inside all those uniforms," he declared over coffee and biscuits. "About 80 per cent of our officers are graduates, including our fair share of philosophers, historians and a musician to go with the grittier end of the business."

After a brief ceremony at which Corporal George Fox became the official recipient of the millionth incoming "bluey" airmail letter, we got down to the engineers' craft, beginning with an ingeniously adapted vehicle designed to trip the sophisticated mines which, the allied commanders believe, have been sown in vast numbers along the likely attack routes. To the outsider, it looked like something by Heath Robinson. The idea, one gathered, was to "fool" enemy mines.

Good gritty stuff, but not nearly as dramatic as the demonstration laid on by a young NCO of the human mine-sufferer. Surrounded by examples of what the Iraqi forces have probably planted - innocuous slabs and bars and circular canisters - he showed us how an experienced operator listens through earphones for the tell-tale humming sound thrown up by the detector with which he sweeps the ground ahead.

This, apparently, remains the most reliable method of all, provided that what Colonel Moore-Bick called the "three Cs" are present: courage, consistency and concentration.

At the other end of the scale, it will probably become 21 Regiment's task to deposit "instant" defensive minefields after any breakthrough by the allied forces. They have plenty of practice in this area from Nato exercises, when the imaginary foe was the Soviet Union, and reckon to carpet an 800-yard stretch of terrain within a few hours.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

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BRITISH Steel announced that its plans to build a new steel mill in Scotland, only a few miles from the town of Glasgow, have been approved by the Scottish Government. The company's new mill, which will be built on a site near the town of Glasgow, is expected to be completed by 1995. The company's new mill will produce a range of steel products, including hot-rolled coils, cold-rolled coils, and sheet piling. The company's new mill will also produce a range of steel products, including hot-rolled coils, cold-rolled coils, and sheet piling. The company's new mill will also produce a range of steel products, including hot-rolled coils, cold-rolled coils, and sheet piling.

Export
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Arrest for an export licence for the Middle East gold and silver trade. The licence was found by an anti-smuggling unit. The unit was looking for a way to stop the export of gold and silver from the Middle East. The unit was looking for a way to stop the export of gold and silver from the Middle East. The unit was looking for a way to stop the export of gold and silver from the Middle East.

Ronson free
Gordon Ronson was freed yesterday after being held for 12 months for his role in the support operation. The support operation was a major success for the British forces. The support operation was a major success for the British forces. The support operation was a major success for the British forces.

Bite damage
Teresa Yarwood, a 30-year-old woman, was awarded £7,500 in damages by the High Court in London. The damages were awarded for a bite on her arm. The bite was inflicted by a dog. The bite was inflicted by a dog. The bite was inflicted by a dog.

Killer jailed
Gordon Mason, 30, was sentenced to 12 months in prison for the murder of a woman. The woman was killed in a car accident. The woman was killed in a car accident. The woman was killed in a car accident.

CORRECTION
No Smoking Day this year is March 12, not March 11, as stated in Thursday's paper.

British Steel to cut 1,100 more jobs at Ravenscraig

By KERRY GILL

BRITISH Steel yesterday announced that another 1,100 jobs were to be axed at the Ravenscraig steel complex in Scotland only a week after the closure of the plant's strip mill with the loss of 770 jobs.

The company's decision to close down one of the two blast furnaces for good was received with surprise and disappointment. It was generally accepted that this latest blow would herald the end of steel production in Scotland within the year.

British Steel said it had decided to operate only one furnace because of increasingly difficult trading conditions. "Operations at Ravenscraig were reduced from two blast furnaces to one earlier this month. The intention had been to review the situation at the end of March. However, against a background of continuing decline in demand and weak prices for strip steel products in the UK and international markets, the review has been brought forward."

It said that the 1,100 posts would be shed by July, mostly from the ironmaking department which contains the furnace. The general steel division, on Teesside, will supply steel for the Dalzell plate mill at Motherwell by August, apart from a limited tonnage from Ravenscraig.

George Quinn, craft union convener, said: "This most certainly is the end of Ravenscraig. We have been saying for some years, since the closure of Gartcosh, that it is their intention to fully commit themselves to close Ravenscraig, but we did not expect the announcement as early as this. The decision comes as no surprise, it is only the timing that surprises us."

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, said: "I am very sad and very angry. This just confirms what we

know, that British Steel are determined on their course of closure and, I fear, have written off Ravenscraig."

Iain Lawson, for the Scottish National Party, said: "It is just genocide on a massive scale. How the government can sit back and let a company act like this is an absolute disgrace. Any hopes that there is a prospect for the steel industry in Scotland are on the line now and the government must force a sell-off."

Many workers leaving the plant yesterday seemed numbed by the latest cut, which brings job losses in the steel industry to 3,000 since November. More than 13,000 people were employed in the Lanarkshire steel complex 14 years ago. Only 1,200 people will be employed in the industry from mid-summer.

David Whyte, aged 27, said he had worked at Ravenscraig for six years. "British Steel want to get shot of the 'Craig' and that is what they will do. I give the plant a year," he said. A publican, whose bar is only yards from the main gate, said the plant was doomed and so was his business.

Ian Livingstone, chairman of the Lanarkshire Development Agency, said: "The government is going to have to come in and give us real support. We simply cannot rebuild an economy all on our own. The government must treat Lanarkshire as a major disaster area." He said the loss of Ravenscraig could put up to 15,500 people out of work because of the knock-on effect.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said British Steel's decision, while predicted, was "most unwelcome, but I understand that increasingly difficult market conditions led the company to this decision, which has been taken on commercial considerations".

Steel under pressure, page 34



Border talks: John Major taking to Private Ian Anderson of the Black Watch, on duty at an observation post on the south Armagh border yesterday

Major breaks Ulster factory visit to phone Bush on Gulf

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major, the prime minister, broke off a tour of a small factory yesterday during his first official visit to Northern Ireland to telephone President Bush from the factory manager's office.

After briefly meeting staff at the Typerite typewriter ribbon plant on the shores of Carlingford Lough, the prime minister spent several minutes on the telephone in an upstairs office in conversation with the president on the allied response to President Gorbachev's Gulf peace plan.

Throughout Mr. Major's visit to Northern Ireland, cut short by events in Moscow, Washington and the Gulf, and during which he also met soldiers and police, the prime minister seemed relaxed and businesslike.

Speaking earlier on the steps of Stormont Castle, Mr. Major said that the mortar attack on Downing Street and the recent bombings of Victoria and Paddington stations in London had not altered his view. "I thought the IRA were contemptible before [the attacks], and I still do."

He said that his government would not be influenced in any way by the IRA's activities. "They have been trying for a very great deal of time to

bully us and push us around with terrorist acts of outrage," he said. "They really ought to have learnt - they are very slow learners - they really ought to know, after all this time, that we aren't going to be pushed around by terrorist acts."

He added that terrorism and violence were counter-productive. "They're not going to gain anything for the IRA, absolutely nothing whatsoever. They gain them no public support, and they gain them no political advance," he said.

The prime minister was accompanied by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, who is continuing his painstaking efforts at securing political progress in Northern Ireland despite the widely shared view that his initiative has all but run out of steam. Mr. Major gave his full support to Mr. Brooke's efforts, saying he very much hoped they would be successful and that common sense dictated that they should be so.

Yesterday's visit came as Sinn Féin officials were reported as describing as a catastrophe the death of David Corner, the civil servant killed at Victoria station, and the injuries to more than 30 civilians

in the IRA explosion. Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Féin's chairman in Northern Ireland, was quoted in the *Irish News* as saying: "I think that when a civilian gets killed in any circumstances of Republican activity, that it is catastrophic ... no ifs, buts or ands."

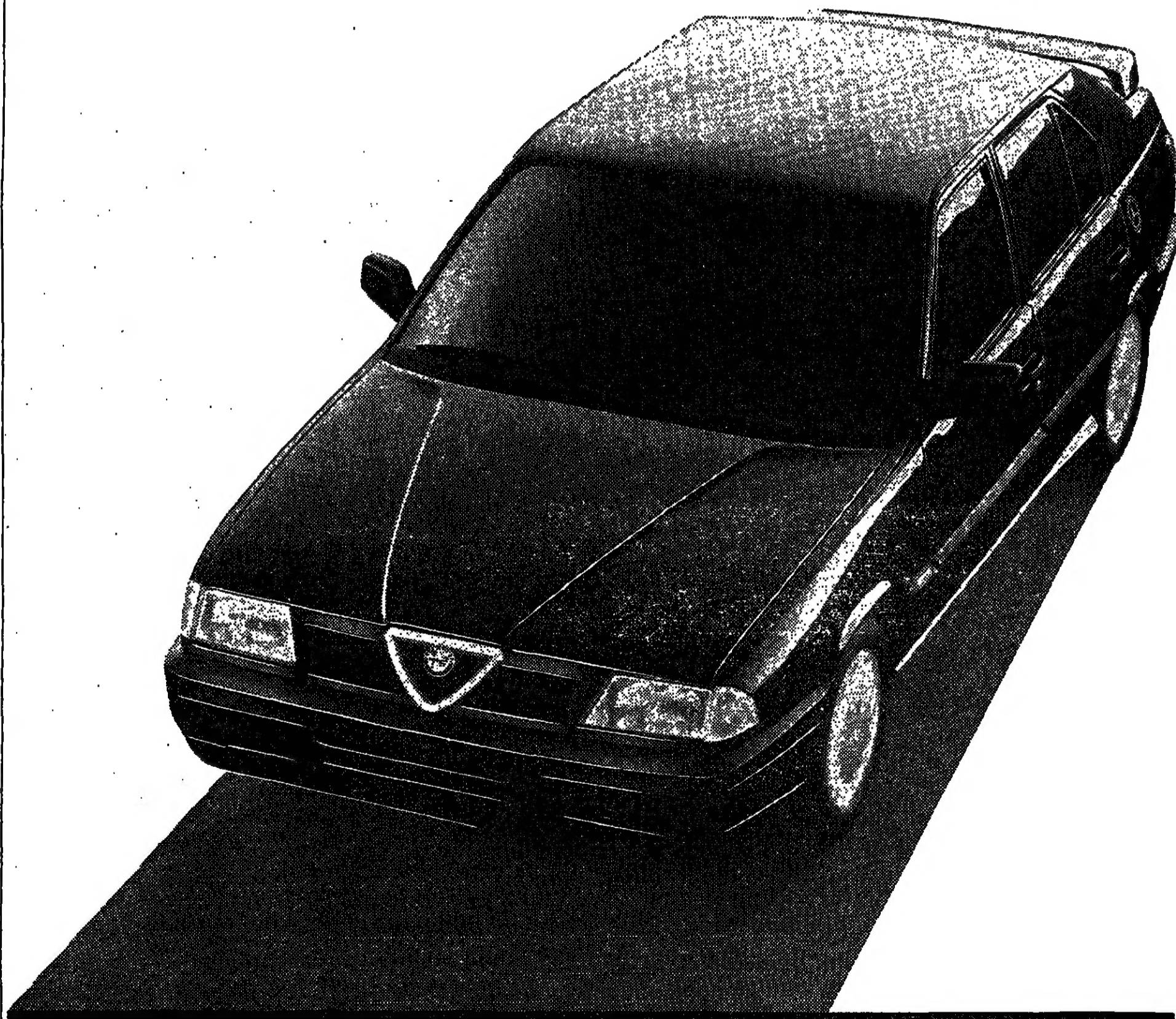
"There is no way you can shift the blame for that on to anybody else even if warnings were ignored. My view is that it is a tragedy for the families involved; it is a tragedy for the Republican struggle and it provides opportunity for diversion and fudging of the issues."

Mr. Major's impromptu telephone conversation with Mr. Bush could hardly have been more secure (Our Technology Correspondent writes). By picking a handset at random it is unlikely that any unauthorised individual could have planned or set up a phone tap quickly enough.

Secure telephone links between Downing Street and the White House exist, as does technology to forward calls from one phone to another. It is possible that Mr. Major gained access to the secure transatlantic link using a coded number.

Leading article, page 13

AN ALFA ROMEO 33 FOR THE PRICE OF AN ORDINARY CAR. KEEP IT DARK.



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Value for money seems too mundane a way to consider such a thrilling car, but amongst those who've been quick to notice this have been the sharpest of the motoring press.

Consider this quote from *Motoring and Leisure* magazine. "...the car has a crisp fluidity on the move that would make anyone who took an extended test drive wonder why he or

she considered the competent but boring and actually more expensive mainstream 1.6 GL models from rival manufacturers."

Or *Auto Express*, reviewing the 137bhp 16V Cloverleaf. "At £12,085* for the 16V Cloverleaf, you get a car that's faster and better equipped than a BMW 318iS at £14,750*. The 16V is also cheaper and quicker than a VW Golf GTi, a Rover 416 GTi and a Citroen BX 19 GTi. Whichever way we drive, the new 33 impressed."

Much admired, too, were the specifications which come as standard with every model in the range; power steering, electric front windows, central locking, stereo radio/cassette and a 6 year anti-rust warranty.

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Whilst *World Sports Cars* simply describes the price as "ludicrous."

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A RACE APART

Export of £2.5m jewel delayed

A request for an export licence for the Middleham Jewel, a gold and sapphire pendant linked with Richard III that was found by amateur treasure hunters, has been deferred by the government to give British buyers the chance to raise £2.5 million to keep it in this country (Peter Davenport writes).

Potential purchasers have until April 17 to declare an interest in buying the jewel which was found in 1985 in a field near Middleham castle, North Yorkshire. The finders were declared the owners and it sold at auction for £1.4 million three years ago. The new value has been set on the advice of experts.

Ronson freed

Gerald Ronson was released from jail yesterday after serving half of the 12-month sentence for his role in the illegal share support operation which allowed Guinness to win its take-over battle for Distillers. He left Ford open prison near Arundel, West Sussex, soon after midnight to avoid journalists. Mr Ronson, aged 51, head of the Heron group, who was also fined a record £5 million, earned full remission.

Bite damages

Terence Yarwood, a postman, was awarded £7,250 damages at the High Court in London yesterday against the owner of an alsatian dog which bit him as he delivered mail in June 1987. Mr Yarwood, aged 27, of Sheffield, Bedfordshire, who was bitten on the scrotum and had a small puncture wound to his penis requiring stitches, said his sex life had suffered and that he now had a fear of dogs.

Killer jailed

Geoffrey Massey, aged 38, a British sergeant with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Detmold, was convicted by a military tribunal at Herford, Germany, yesterday of killing two forestry workers and sentenced to life imprisonment on both charges. He also pleaded guilty to kidnapping and unlawfully imprisoning Captain Tracy Clark, a British doctor stationed at Bielefeld.

CORRECTION

No Smoking day this year is to be March 13, not March 10 as stated in Thursday's paper.

Churches end help for jobless

By TIM JONES
EMPLOYMENT
CORRESPONDENT

AN UMBRELLA body for church-sponsored organisations providing training for the unemployed yesterday blamed government cuts for its decision to close.

The Rev. Andrew O'Connor, chairman of Churches Training for Employment (CTE), said that the government's decision to cut more than £300 million from its Employment Training scheme to help the long-term unemployed, was the last straw.

Membership of CTE which concentrated on helping disadvantaged people, has shrunk from 30 to 20 employment training providers since it was started in September 1981, and more are expected to close in the next few months because of the cuts.

Mr O'Connor said: "We are sad and disgusted at the way disadvantaged and disabled people are being consigned to the scrap-heap. For the first time in 15 years, there is no longer a national training or temporary work programme for all long-term unemployed adults."

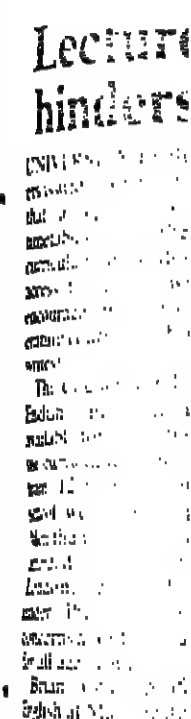
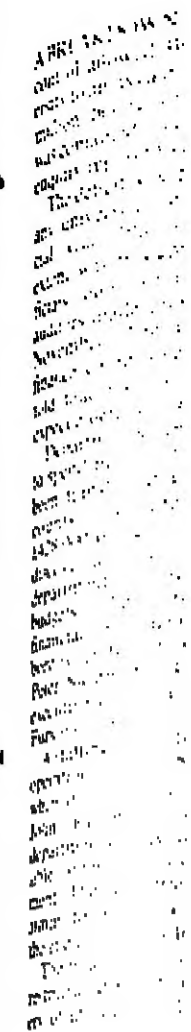
He added: "People who have special needs are not going to be trained by training and enterprise councils because the funding for them is increasingly dependent on people gaining qualifications. Those who may take a long time to gain a qualification will not be trained, so that disadvantaged people will become further marginalised."

Bank union leaders last night reacted with caution to a pay offer from Barclays Bank which would give its 75,000 non-managerial staff a 7.5 per cent rise from March 1 after a one-month salary freeze. The bank said staff would receive a further 1.5 per cent from August.

Members of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union and the Barclays Group Staff Union said that the offer meant a drop in real terms because it was below the rate of inflation. The union has dismissed as scaremongering warnings that up to 17,000 jobs at the bank will go in the next five years and is asking for 14 per cent.

The Press Association, the national news agency, told staff this week that some 75 jobs would be cut over the next few months to save more than £1 million.

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University's £4½m deficit is blamed on a lack of control

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BREAKDOWN in financial control allowed Bristol University to amass a deficit of £4.4 million before overspending was contained, a committee of enquiry reported yesterday.

The deficit was the largest of any university for the financial year 1989-90 and its extent was recognised by officials only shortly before auditors made their report in November. The university's finance committee had been told four months earlier to expect a deficit of £245,000.

Departments were allowed to spend money that had not been transferred to their accounts, overspending of £428,000 on salaries was not discovered for a year, and 15 departments submitted deficit budgets. The university's financial management has been severely criticised by Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chief executive of the Universities Funding Council.

A staffing freeze has been in operation since November, when the vice-chancellor, Sir John Kingman, also told departments to recall all possible orders for new equipment. The university is now aiming to save £2.4 million by the end of this academic year. The finance office has been restructured since the discovery of the deficit, two senior

officials taking early retirement. Sir John said yesterday that he had considered resigning but decided that this would not be in the best interests of the university. "I have responsibility for everything that happens at the university, so in particular I have responsibility for what went wrong with the finances. That has to be discharged by taking all the steps necessary to correct the position."

Sir John was a member of the committee of enquiry, which reported to the Bristol University Council yesterday, but took no part in discussions on his own role in the affair.

The committee found no evidence of wrongdoing, but said that long-term weaknesses had been exposed in the way the university ran its affairs. The committee criticised the university for spending too little on its finance office and sending confused messages to departments, which were responsible for their budgets for the first time. Some miscalculation had been associated with the introduction of a computerised accounting system. An unexpectedly large pay rise, not covered by government grant, also added to the financial problems. The council accepted a series of recommendations for better systems of financial control and reporting, fresh procedures for agreeing departmental budgets, the abandonment of notional salaries in working out staff costs, and the establishment of an audit committee. Four posts, costing £75,000, will be added to the finance office.

Bristol is aiming to recover its overspending on equipment within two years and has set a longer-term target of saving £6 million. A commitment to spend £200,000 on restructuring secretarial and clerical salaries is to be honoured, and a £20 million development plan is going ahead. A social sciences building will open in autumn, Sir John said. "The next few months will be uncomfortable for everyone in the university but we have grounds for optimism amid the gloom."



Aiming for the skies: Helen Sharman, who is to be the first Briton in space, and Timothy Mace, her reserve, holding a model of the rocket in which she will travel. Miss Sharman, aged 27, a chemistry graduate from Sheffield, is a technology specialist from Sarnit, south

west London, was yesterday named as first choice for the Anglo-Soviet venture to the Soviet Union's Mir space station in May (Nick Nuttall writes). Miss Sharman, who graduated in chemistry at Sheffield university, said that she was not frightened by the prospect of her journey.

Creature comforts will, however, be limited. Hair brushes are provided on the space station but Miss Sharman said she would have to take her own moisturiser. There would be dried food, including bread

and cheese, on the Soyuz flight to the station but a porridge-like dish was the staple food on board, she said. Miss Sharman and Major Mace, aged 35, of the Army Air Corps, from Weyhill, Hampshire, have been in training for 16 months.

Lecturers say squeeze hinders classics study

UNIVERSITY English lecturers issued a warning yesterday that a squeeze on school timetables under the national curriculum may deny pupils access to classic works and encourage many to drop literature courses (John O'Leary writes).

The Council for University English said that the time available for the subject under the curriculum had been cut from 12.5 per cent of the school week to 10 per cent. More than 100 of its members attended a conference in London, entitled English under Pressure, to explore concerns about the curriculum for all age groups.

Brian Cox, professor of English at Manchester univer-

sity, whose recommendations formed the basis of the curriculum in English, reassured critics of the new syllabus that pre-20th century literature would not disappear from schools. The study of Shakespeare would remain compulsory, as would texts from the Bible, the poems of Wordsworth and the novels of Jane Austen.

Patrick Parrinder, professor of English at Reading University, said: "The aims of the national curriculum are absolutely right, but there is a real question about whether it will be delivered. We are concerned that the number of students taking English literature might drop dramatically."

IRA guns linked to wave of killings

From MARK FULLER in ROERMOND, THE NETHERLANDS

WEAPONS and explosives found at the arrest of one of four IRA suspects standing trial in The Netherlands have been linked to a string of IRA attacks in Europe.

Weapons used in the IRA's murder last year of two Australian lawyers in Roermond were also used in two attacks on British servicemen in Germany a year earlier, a Dutch court was told yesterday.

Forensic evidence compiled by the Dutch, German and Belgian authorities was presented to court on the third day of the trial of the four people accused of the Roermond killings.

Ballistic reports show that a Kalashnikov assault rifle and a Sturm Ruger handgun used in the Roermond killings were used to murder a British corporal and his baby in Willemstad on October 26, 1989 and in the shooting of two off-duty British soldiers in Munster on September 1, 1989. A Webley hand gun found in an arms cache at the arrest of Donna Maguire in Belgium was also used in the Munster attack.

In a second arms cache near the scene, police found 800kg of Semtex explosive and a Semtex bomb which corresponded to those used in IRA attacks against British targets in the Netherlands and Germany in 1988 and 1989.

Donna Maguire, aged 25, Paul Hughes, 27, both from Newry, Gerard Harter, 27 from Lurgan, and Sean Hick, 30, from Dublin, have been charged with murder and/or complicity in murder and belonging to an illegal organisation, the IRA. They have denied the charges.

Authority on flying aces sentenced for stealing documents

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN AUTHORITY on world war flying aces who stripped the Public Record Office of 15,000 unique historical documents, often using a Stanley knife to fuel his obsession, received a suspended prison sentence yesterday.

The operational papers of Douglas Bader, blueprints for the Sopwith Camel biplane and the air combat record of the Hollywood star Douglas Fairbanks junior were among his £3,800,000 haul in the greatest theft of documents ever at the PRO.

Timothy Bernard Graves, aged 39, a civil supply officer with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary at Devonport, pleaded guilty at Middlesex Guildhall crown court to eight specimen charges of theft, two of criminal damage to property and two of obtaining property by deception from July 1984 to September 1990.

Graves, of Briarwood, Liskeard, Cornwall, who is an authority on Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron, and a television expert, received 15 months suspended for two years and was ordered to pay £5,000 compensation.

The court was told that between 4,000 and 5,000 combat reports and flight papers were still missing. The PRO's investigation into the thefts had cost £20,000 and 1,700 man hours.

Stephen Kramer, for the prosecution, said that Graves had started collecting documents as a sideline but it developed into an obsession, particularly with the papers and memorabilia of the aces. He had written about a dozen books which he produced on a photocopier and circulated in specialist aviation circles. The offences came to light last year when one of the stolen documents he had swapped was innocently offered for sale at Sotheby's.

Arrested on his ship at Devonport, Graves showed detectives seven boxes of files at his house. He said that he had sold three sets, one to someone at Princeton University for £600.

Det Con Stephen Engell said that Graves, who had appeared as an aviation expert on BBC2's *Timewatch*, was so fanatical that his vision had become clouded. Basil Hillman, for Graves, told the court his interest in the world war had been stimulated by talking to grandparents who had fought in them and by visits to battlegrounds in Belgium and France.

The Public Record Office said last night: "We have reviewed our security procedures. They have been tightened up in various ways."

Aids programme complaint dismissed as witch hunt

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A COMPLAINT against a Channel 4 edition of *Dispatches* that challenged the widely accepted scientific view that the HIV virus causes Aids was a witch hunt intended to push minority voices out of broadcasting, the producer of the programme said yesterday.

Joan Shenton, whose programme *The Aids Catch* was transmitted last June, also said that the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, which will rule on the complaint at a closed hearing on March 14, was acting outside its jurisdiction by trying to decide the outcome of a scientific debate on the links between HIV and Aids.

The commission, which will consider whether the programme was unfair to the subject of Aids, said that the issue was more to do with balance. The commission is empowered to uphold complaints against broadcasters if programme material was selected or arranged unfairly.

Miss Shenton said: "There have been over 200 hours of programmes putting the theory that HIV leads to Aids. This was just one programme presenting another view."

The Terence Higgins Trust, which lodged the complaint with Positively Women and the HIV campaign group Frontline, said the programme was irresponsible and would endanger lives by suggesting that the HIV virus was not infectious and did not lead to Aids. Wellcome, the drug company which makes AZT, which is used to treat people who are HIV positive, is making a separate complaint.

The programme, which was also criticised by the health department for its "sensational and unbalanced tone", put forward the views of Peter Duesberg, an American molecular biologist who made the first "genetic map" used to understand HIV. He argued that behaviour such as drug abuse, homosexuality and

poor eating habits, not HIV, was the real cause of Aids.

Naomi Wayne, chief executive of the Terence Higgins Trust, said that the programme was inaccurate and dishonest and she was worried that people who saw it might have been misled into thinking that they did not need to practise safe sex.

She said, however, that it was the trust which was being irresponsible, lulling people into a false sense of security by arguing that safe sex was enough to protect people from Aids. "If HIV is not the cause of Aids, then there are other causes we should be addressing, not simply telling people safe sex is enough to protect them."

The commission is expected to make public its adjudication. The Independent Television Commission, whose predecessor the IBA cleared the programme, said it would wait for the commission's ruling to see whether it constituted a regulatory clash.

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Jail term halved for seller of tin shares

FRED TRULL, who sold £1 shares in a Cornish tin mine to people hoping to avoid the poll tax, had his six-months jail sentence halved and suspended for two years yesterday (Ray Clancy writes).

Mr Trull, aged 66, of Lostwithiel, clerk of the ancient Stannary parliament, was jailed for contempt of court last October after he failed to appear for a hearing. The sentence was temporarily suspended when he agreed to help the investigation into the scheme and yesterday he

asked for the matter to be discharged in the High Court. However, Mr Justice Warner agreed only to cut the sentence and suspend it on condition that Mr Trull helps the trade and industry department in its attempt to recover up to £1.25 million invested by the public.

Mark Stray, aged 25, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, was jailed for 21 days yesterday for refusing to pay his poll tax. When magistrates asked why he had not paid, he replied: "Why should I?"

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Amis and a touch of malice

"Dahl was shaking his head slowly. 'What you want to do is write a children's book. That's where the money is today, believe me.' I told him I couldn't do it - I'd got no feeling for that kind of thing. 'Never mind, the little bastards'd swallow it.' Well, I suppose you'd know, I replied."

Kingsley Amis, from the first extract of *Memoirs*, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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Kinnock says Tories will rue day they lost Thatcher

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives will come to rue the day they replaced Margaret Thatcher with John Major, Neil Kinnock argued yesterday in a move clearly aimed at denting the recovery in Tory fortunes since November's leadership contest.

The Labour leader's remarks were a reversal of his party's public posture in the weeks before Mrs Thatcher's fall when she was labelled an electoral liability. They also fly in the face of opinion poll findings which suggest that Mr Major has given a significant lift to Tory support.

Mr Kinnock sought to undermine Tory self-confidence while campaigning in Clitheroe, in Lancashire, during the election.

General election 1987: David Waddington (Con) 50,136; Michael Carr (SDP) 10,808; Gregory Pope (Lab) 5,781. Con maj 19,528.

ing the Ribbles Valley by-election where Nigel Evans, the Conservative candidate, is defending a majority of 19,528.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher's overthrow had robbed the Conservatives of an electoral asset. "What everybody forgets about Mrs Thatcher is that come election time Mrs Thatcher, for a number of reasons that I don't approve of but have to recognise, was an electoral asset."

Mr Kinnock added that he did not think that once the Gulf war was over and domestic political concerns reassured themselves the prime minister would have the same "pulling power" as his predecessor. "The odd sip of beverage I had at the time she went was genuine celebration. Mr Major is easier to fight and beat than Mrs Thatcher."

Many Tory MPs will dismiss the Labour leader's assessment as no more than a fairly crude attempt to sow division in their ranks. However, a minority, described yesterday by Mr Kinnock as Mrs Thatcher's palace guard, privately share his opinion.

The Labour leader's comments came as the first opinion poll in the constituency since campaigning began showed Labour in second place, 19 points behind the Tories but 11.5 points ahead of the Liberal Democrats. The poll by college students for the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* will be treated with some scepticism by by-election campaigners.

Mr Kinnock also attacked the government's plan to replace the poll tax with a property tax adjusted for the number of occupants in a house. "The party that gave you the poll tax to replace the rates is about to give you the poll tax plus the rates," he said.

The poll tax is dominating the campaign in an area where there are a lot of low-rated houses and where residents have faced increases running into hundreds of pounds. In a speech in Ribbles Valley last night, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, highlighted the steps the government was taking to bring down community charge bills.

The £1.2 billion of extra help in the community charge deduction scheme would reduce the bill for a couple in the area who used to pay average rates by £122 from April.

Earlier, Mr Heseltine had visited Leo and Alice Wells, local Tories whose combined poll tax of £607 last year will be reduced by £190 this year. This is still £183 more than their rates bill in 1989-90.



Flour power: Mike Thurlow, the owner of Norfolk's last working water mill, in the village of Letheringsett, where two hundred oak trees blown down in the great gale of October 1987 have been used to make 12,500 feet of flooring and

2,000 feet of beams to restore the mill. The restoration began in 1982 with the help of a local craftsman, George Rudd. At that time the mill was diesel-powered and used to crush animal feed. Since being converted back to water power in

1984 after a break of 40 years the mill has produced two-and-a-half tonnes a week of whole-wheat, stone-ground flour, which Mr Thurlow sells to local bakeries, health food shops and general stores, and to visitors to the mill.

MPs reject move to televise trials

By ROGER WOOD, PARLIAMENTARY EDITOR

A MOVE to allow the televising of court cases on an experimental basis failed to get a second reading in the Commons yesterday and is unlikely to make any further progress.

The courts (research) bill, which sought to remove the ban on television cameras in courts and to allow controlled experiments, was effectively killed when a vote on a procedural motion was supported by only 22 MPs.

The bill's sponsor, Michael Woodcock, Conservative MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston, told MPs it was not his intention to introduce television in courts as a permanent feature. "It [the bill] seeks to test the arguments both for and against."

The government was not opposed to the bill, but approached it with "considerable caution" and wanted to know the views of MPs, said Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the solicitor-general. The government would insist on a number of safeguards if the bill were allowed to proceed, he said.

The measure, supported by the Bar Council, sought to implement the proposals of the Caplan Report which concluded in 1989 that the

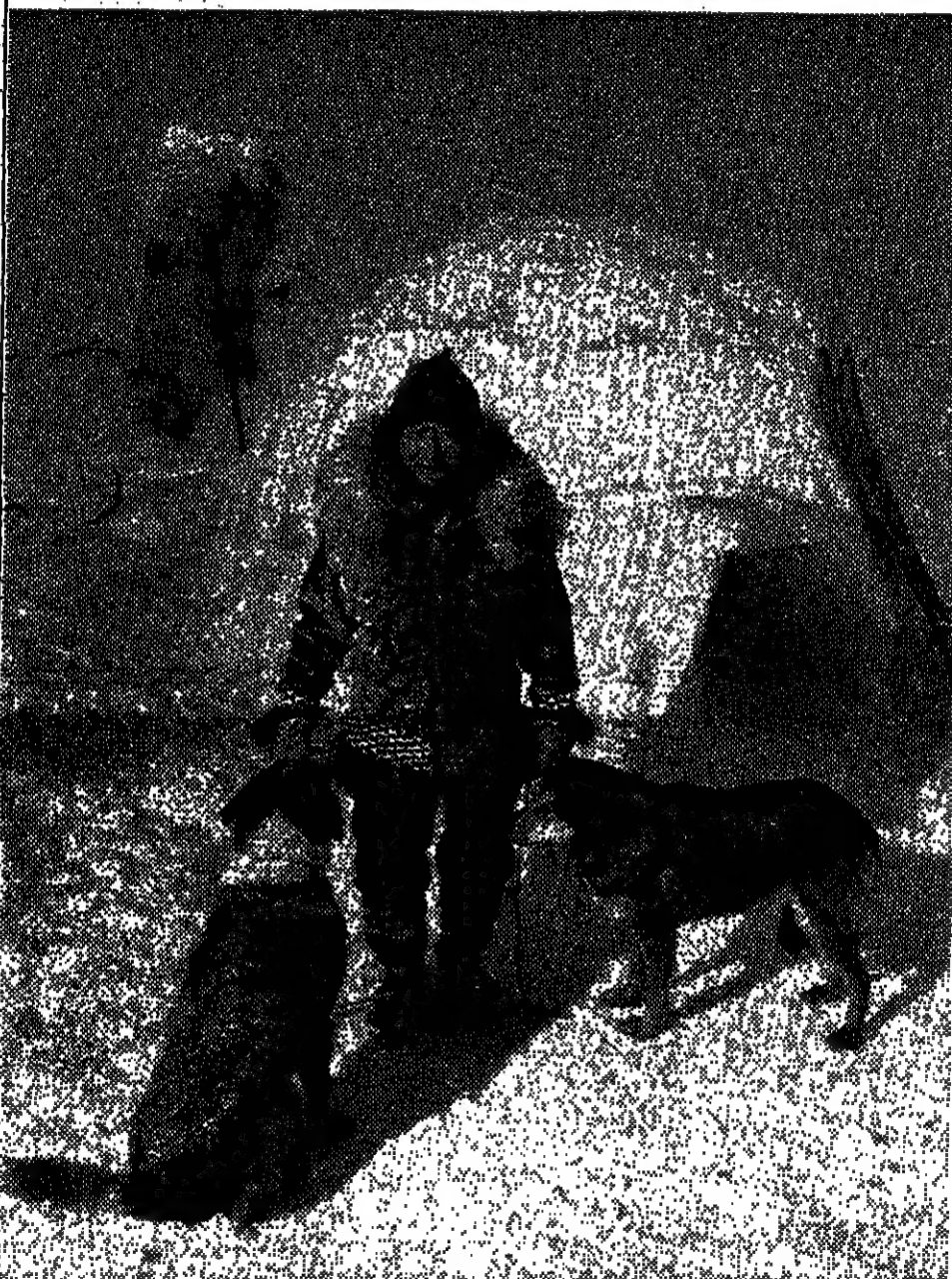
ban on cameras was no longer justified. Court photography was banned in 1925.

Mr Woodcock said confidence in the judiciary and legal system "can best be achieved by allowing the public to see judges, lawyers and the police at work, to see how courts make their decisions".

The bill also aimed to ease the total ban on interviewing jurors, to enable legitimate research. There was opposition from Ivan Lawrence, QC, the Conservative MP for Burton, who said that the bill would risk the creation of a "media circus" with the public being interested in sex cases and those involving child abuse and murder.

Sir Nicholas accepted that there were advantages and some difficulties in the bill. Television might give the public a better perspective of the law and the workings of the court system, but the presence of cameras might cause some witnesses to "clam up completely" while others might play up to them. He noted that all the American states which had conducted similar experiments had allowed the cameras to remain.

British Gas



BRITISH GAS WANTS TO HELP YOU WARM YOUR HOME WITHOUT WARMING HIS.

Walters sees a Labour election win

SIR Alan Walters, Margaret Thatcher's former economic adviser, yesterday said that John Major's economic policies could lead to the election of a Labour government and added that interest rates should have been brought down long ago to 11 per cent or less (Philip Webster writes).

The day after the cabinet reaffirmed its commitment to the exchange-rate mechanism, Sir Alan repeated his warning that a devaluation would result from the ERM and if so, the hardships generated by mass unemployment and bankruptcies would lead to disenchantment with the ERM model of a disinflationary policy.

In the *London Evening Standard*, he said: "I fear it will do damage to the Tories that a 1992 election might well bring in a Labour government."

Liverpool cash plea turned down

LIVERPOOL will get no extra money from the government to ease its financial problems, Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, told council leaders and officers yesterday (Ronald Faux writes).

Mr Heseltine told Harry Rimmer, council leader, and Peter Bonade, chief executive, that he understood the city's problems but said they had been mostly caused by council decisions and must be resolved by council decisions.

Mr Rimmer said: "He did not offer us any additional cash, and I did not expect any other reaction." The council has been told it must cut £19 million from the budget and lose 600 jobs if it is to meet government guidelines and avoid charge-capping.

The leaders explained their opposition to the community charge and told Mr Heseltine that problems collecting the tax could mean that £80 would have to be added to every bill in the city next year.

Sale thief is jailed

A pickpocket aged 62 enlisted the help of a grandmother aged 59 to give him an air of respectability as he preyed on shoppers at Harrods on the first day of the sale. Lewis Morton, who has a history of pickpocket convictions, was jailed for three years on Thursday by Southwark crown court. Yesterday Elizabeth Eaton, his accomplice, was given a 140-hour community service order by Hoveferry Road magistrates, central London.

Morton, of Sarsley, and Eaton, of Whitwell, both Derbyshire, admitted three thefts and asked for four to be considered.

Sledging death

Phillip Clothier, aged three, died a week after losing control of his sledges on a hill in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, and hitting a small tree during the snowy weather earlier this month, an inquest was told yesterday. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Officers bailed

Two policemen accused of perjury and unlawful imprisonment were committed for crown court trial yesterday. Paul Handley, aged 30, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Matthew Hall, aged 23, of Stoke-on-Trent, both officers with Staffordshire police, were granted bail.

'Doctor' accused

Muhammad Saeed, aged 62, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, was yesterday remanded in custody accused of falsely saying he was a doctor and of claiming £84,813 by deception in the nine months to January in the employment as a GP in Yorkshire. He is alleged to have claimed that he qualified in Pakistan in 1949.

Tax blunder

North Norfolk council is to pay bank charges for poll tax payers who pay by direct debit and whose accounts became overdrawn when it accidentally charged them an extra instalment.

Woman found

A woman lost in a blizzard near Ulkwater, Cumbria, was found by mountain rescue teams yesterday sheltering in a snow hole. Ruth Davies, aged 48, of Earsfield, London, was treated for hypothermia.

Cycles fail test

Seven mountain bicycles priced from £90 to £140 that were tested by trading standards officers failed to meet British safety requirements. The most worrying feature was bad braking. Ten out of 14 safety helmets tested also failed to meet the standards.

Prisoner dies

Stephen Hale, aged 23, of Aberystwyth, Mid-Glamorgan, awaiting trial for alleged rape, was found hanged in his cell at Cardiff prison.

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Union leaders locked in battle for the soul of Solidarity



Rulewski: busy drumming up the support of delegates

A FIERCE struggle for power is brewing in the Solidarity trade union, which holds a special congress today to elect a chairman in place of President Wałęsa.

The two-day congress in Gdansk is more than a fight for the top job: it is about the very soul of the trade union which was forged in the August strikes of 1980. Most of the 500 delegates agree that Solidarity must now be a conventional trade union, defending workers' demands, concessions from government and, if necessary, organising strikes and street protests against the premier, the cabinet and their old chief, the president of Poland.

The delegates also want to retain a political role, probably by electing candidates for the parliamentary elections in May and thus building up a strong lobby for social welfare legislation.

Solidarity has come a long way from the "anti-politics" of its first congress in 1981. During that tense congress delegate after delegate stood up to swear that Solidarity

was not political and that it was not chasing power but merely urging social and economic reform.

Solidarity was born out of an egalitarian ethic and the conviction that the communists had betrayed that ethic. Now, with a Solidarity-aligned government (the second since the communists were ousted in August 1989) with their man as president, and a market programme that actively encourages redundancies and the closing of inefficient industry, the union is befuddled. It has both to support and oppose the government.

Opinion polls show that its approval rating has slipped from 75 per cent in January 1990, when the government embarked on its economic "shock therapy", to 40 per cent in January 1991. The biggest drop came when Mr Wałęsa was elected president in December, and simultaneously resigned as Solidarity chairman.

Because Solidarity shares a form of economic responsibility with the government, many workers no longer regard it as a tough enough

Delegates return to Gdansk, birthplace of Poland's free trade union, for a congress today to elect a successor to Lech Wałęsa, Roger Boyes writes. The prize at stake is more than the top job

bargaining partner. The left-wing unions are picking up some of the Solidarity malcontents, but mainly these unrepresented workers are a loose and potentially dangerous floating constituency.

Angry Silesian coalminers recently stormed through the gates of the presidential palace to demand a meeting with Mr Wałęsa: they trust neither the government nor Solidarity. Stanisław Tyminski, the political outsider, drew many of his votes in the presidential election from precisely this constituency, heavy industrial workers without a political home.

For Solidarity the real test will be how it handles wage controls. These are enforced in state industry by a special tax, known as *popisek*, which financially penal-

ises any management that raises the wages of workers beyond an officially set cost-of-living index. Since some 80 per cent of the economy is still in state hands, this tax amounts to a nationwide wage freeze.

Solidarity, as a union, cannot stomach this. In strike after strike, workers are rising up against this tax, compared here to Mrs Thatcher's poll tax. Yet Solidarity is pledged to support the government's move to the market, and the accompanying anti-inflation measures.

What to do? Mr Bogdan Borusiewicz, the former Gdansk underground resistance organiser who is the favourite to replace Mr Wałęsa this weekend, suggests that wage increases should be granted,

but in the form of privatisation vouchers. Most of his rivals for the Solidarity leadership say that this is simply a fudge and that wage controls must be dropped immediately.

There are other issues to be resolved if Solidarity wants to define itself clearly as a union. First, say many delegates, it should discard the old regional structure and organise along the lines of separate industries, with unions representing steelworkers, miners and so on, in the Western mode.

Second, how many Solidarity officials should stand for parliament? Some factions say only between 30 and 50, because the union is being bled of its talent: President Wałęsa has taken scores of top organisers onto his staff, while many others have been absorbed into government and local councils.

Former heroes of the underground, such as Władysław Frasyniuk, have resigned from Solidarity to become full-time politicians. Mr Borusiewicz, how-

ever argues that the Solidarity union should in effect run as a mass political party, contesting every seat. Otherwise the left-wing trade unions may push Solidarity to the political margins.

Much depends on the personality of Mr Borusiewicz, a modest, pragmatic man who was named as successor by Mr Wałęsa at the last congress in April 1990. But Mr Wałęsa's support may already have shifted to another strong candidate, Andrzej Ślowski from Łódź. Although he has pronounced right-wing views, Mr Ślowski favours a purely "unionist" union without political pretensions.

Other candidates, who have been busily drumming up delegates' votes over the past fortnight, include the current deputy chairman, Lech Kaczyński (from Gdansk), Marian Krzakiński from Katowice and the firebrand opponent of Mr Wałęsa, Jan Rulewski. Since neither the Warsaw nor the Wrocław regions is fielding candidates, the spoils will go to whoever wins their votes.

Yeltsin goes on tour to sidestep Moscow uproar

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, ignoring the uproar created in Moscow by his call for President Gorbachev's resignation, continued his tour of the Russian north yesterday, meeting the people in the medieval city of Novgorod.

The Russian parliament summoned Mr Yeltsin to an extraordinary meeting on March 28 at which Communist hardliners seem certain to press for his resignation. He will also be asked to defend his policies and leadership.

Mr Yeltsin's three-day tour, which took him to the industrial city of Yaroslavl, factories, collective farms and a

monastery, appeared to be a tactic to turn down the heat in Moscow and court the popular support that has served him so well in the past.

Travel in the provinces appears to give Mr Yeltsin more opportunity to speak his mind than he generally has in Moscow. In Yaroslavl, he was reported to have continued the line of attack he pursued in Tuesday's television broadcast, accusing Mr Gorbachev and the centre of trying to preserve an obsolete system that was on its last legs.

Last month Mr Yeltsin flew to Siberia immediately after announcing that Russia was drastically reducing its contribution to the central budget. During the summer, when his and Mr Gorbachev's advisers were hammering out a joint economic programme, he toured the Urals and the Pacific. The ecstatic reception he receives not only affords him protection from the physical danger he constantly suspects, but also conveys the message to the Kremlin that any attempt to oust him would cause serious trouble.

An opinion poll taken in Moscow last weekend found that Mr Yeltsin was not only by far the most popular Russian politician, but that support for him as Russian leader had increased since January. The findings of the poll contrasted with recent year-on-year polls reported in the official press which claimed that Mr Yeltsin's standing had fallen. The propaganda cam-

paign against him scaled new heights yesterday with all official papers placing the "political declaration" presented to the Russian parliament on their front pages. The conservative *Sovetskaya Rossiya* covered its front page with indignant statements and interviews with deputies and "ordinary people" who said they took exception to the Russian leader's broadcast.

The previous day the same paper had implicated the Russian prime minister, Ivan Silayev, and obliquely Mr Yeltsin, in a complicated scheme to obtain goods and dollars to the value of 300 billion roubles.

Second thoughts: Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet prime minister, tried to distance himself yesterday from his accusations that Western conspirators were trying to wreck the economy, and that Western businesses involved in the Soviet Union were mostly blatant speculators (Nick Worrall writes).

Mr Pavlov told a news conference he was sorry that his remarks had been interpreted as an attack on Western business. The foreign business community saw his claims as a clumsy attempt to explain last month's unpopular attempt to reform the shaky Soviet currency.

"I did not intend to make any attacks on Western business," the prime minister said. "I have friends, good friends among them. We stand for co-operation with Western business."



Closed chapters: books written by Enver Hoxha, the former Albanian dictator, being burnt outside a bookshop in Tirana, after a day of student demonstrations in the city. A bronze statue of Hoxha was torn down in the capital and officials closed the imposing museum dedicated to his achievements. The ruling Communists issued a statement on Thursday, urging Albanians to "halt the dark forces in their tracks". "The power of the people is invincible, and the victories we have achieved and the freedom of the homeland are in danger," it said.

However, the Hoxha cult that enshrined the Communist's power appears to be receding. Troops and tanks guarded key buildings in the capital, although residents said the streets were now quiet and people had gone back to work. The harbourmaster's office at the Italian port of Brindisi reported yesterday that a group of 150 Albanian navy cadets had defected there with their naval tanker and police said they had asked about obtaining political asylum. Four civilians and 24 navy personnel were said to be on board.

THE cholera epidemic that has swept Peru in recent weeks, causing more than 22,500 people to suffer diarrhoea, vomiting, and dehydration, could not have come at a worse time. Already plagued with internal violence and an economy on the verge of collapse, Peru faced the epidemic while the government of President Fujimori underwent its first cabinet upheaval and confronted an increase in unrest linked to the Gulf war.

The Peruvian health ministry kept the epidemic under control with a rapid response, widespread publicity and free medical care. An estimated 115 patients have died, a mortality rate of just 0.5 per cent, and the number of new cases is declining. However, Peru might have to live with disease and its economic and medical consequences for years to come.

According to the ministry of health, the epidemic began in the fishing towns north of the capital before being carried by

Mandela three skip country

Johannesburg — Three of the four missing men due to stand trial with Winnie Mandela on kidnapping and assault charges are in a refugee camp in northern Botswana, it was reported here yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

The Johannesburg *Star* said that an extradition request was being prepared by the department of foreign affairs. Although there is no formal diplomatic representation between South Africa and Botswana, an extradition agreement was signed in 1969 when the former British protectorate was given independence.

Talks resume

Belgrade — Leaders of Yugoslavia's six quarrelsome republics resumed their talks in an attempt to break the deadlock and decide whether the country will survive as a state or whether it will break up, which now seems the likeliest course. They decided to hold future talks outside Belgrade, the capitals of the republics each taking their turn.

Whale victim



Keltie Lee Byrne, aged 23, a Canadian animal trainer, was dragged to her death by three killer whales before horrified spectators in Oak Bay, British Columbia. Miss Byrne had ridden on the back of a whale during an exhibition. (AP)

Briton jailed

Kuala Lumpur — A Malaysian-born Briton has been jailed for 31 months for cheating a clerk of about £3,000 in cash and jewellery after promising to rid her of bad luck. Dionne Marie Hanna, aged 30, described as a shopkeeper from Cambridge, admitted deceiving the woman. (AFP)

Lesbian patrols

Sydney — Lesbian motorcyclist club Dykes on Bikes is to patrol the gay district here from midnight to dawn to prevent attacks on the city's large homosexual community. Police have approved of the lesbian patrols. (Reuter)

Prunskiene to join opposition

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

KAZIMIERA Prunskiene, the former Lithuanian prime minister forced out of office by radical nationalists in the Sajudis movement last month, has returned to Lithuania from Germany and intends to help lead political opposition to the government of President Landsbergis.

Mrs Prunskiene said yesterday that she means to "bring together deputies and people who agree with my political line". She said that she might enter one of the new political parties, or try to form "a coalition of different political forces". Mrs Prunskiene said that her political position lay between liberalism and social democracy, and she called for new attempts to formulate Lithuanian policy for negotiations with Moscow and the West.

Mrs Prunskiene said that although she resigned as prime minister, "I have not lost my role as a political leader, which I have held for many years".

She criticised the new government of Dr Gedyminas Vagnorius. "I doubt if anyone knows what economic policy he has. In the past, his only policy was to criticise my government. Now, I expect he will simply agree with Dr Landsbergis. Government policy will be very dependent on the will of parliament, where no serious discussion is going on."

Mrs Prunskiene's attacks on the government are likely to be muted, in order to avoid charges of dividing and weakening the nation in the face of the imminent Soviet threat. However, she criticised "authoritarian" tendencies among the Sajudis radicals who dominate the government. "It is unbelievable that

there is already talk of re-introducing censorship," she said.

Mrs Prunskiene said that the government of Dr Vagnorius was illegitimate because it was elected by a parliament lacking a proper quorum. She said this question must be decided by a parliamentary commission, due to report shortly.

The commission, which is chaired by Kazimieras Motieka, the deputy president, is also investigating the disappearance of Albertas Simenas, who held office for less than two days after replacing Mrs Prunskiene.

Georgian guerrillas 'crushed'

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

GEORGIA'S nationalist government claimed yesterday that it had neutralised a group of extremist nationalist guerrillas. The existence of the freedom fighters lent weight to claims in Moscow that nobody really controls the republic, and it has threatened to impose emergency rule in Georgia.

The guerrilla group does not exist any more, said an interior ministry spokesman, referring to the shadowy Mikheilidze militia. He said 100 men were detained in this week's action against guerrilla bases across the republic. More than 100 stolen vehicles, and automatic weapons and pistols were also seized.

Supporters of the guerrilla group, which subscribes to a rival version of Georgian nationalism, accused President Gamsakhurdia of Georgia of using pressure from Moscow as an excuse to settle domestic quarrels and crush his enemies.

Cholera epidemic deepens Peruvian economic ills

FROM CORINNE SCHMIDT IN LIMA

THE cholera epidemic that has swept Peru in recent weeks, causing more than 22,500 people to suffer diarrhoea, vomiting, and dehydration, could not have come at a worse time. Already plagued with internal violence and an economy on the verge of collapse, Peru faced the epidemic while the government of President Fujimori underwent its first cabinet upheaval and confronted an increase in unrest linked to the Gulf war.

The Peruvian health ministry kept the epidemic under control with a rapid response, widespread publicity and free medical care. An estimated 115 patients have died, a mortality rate of just 0.5 per cent, and the number of new cases is declining. However, Peru might have to live with disease and its economic and medical consequences for years to come.

According to the ministry of health, the epidemic began in the fishing towns north of the capital before being carried by

sewage, marine life and plankton down the coast to Lima. How cholera, which is new to Peru, arrived here is a mystery, but its proliferation is easier to explain. Public sanitation declined as millions of peasants crowded into the coastal cities during the past 30 years. Lima, once a refined middle-class city, is now a filthy, sprawling metropolis.

The social changes have been shadowed by deepening economic troubles. Last year inflation topped 10,000 per cent. Battered by the economic predicament and beset by bad management, the government has done little to update sanitary systems.

Dr Uriel Garcia, a former health minister, said: "Forty per cent of the people in Lima don't have drinkable water, and in provincial cities the numbers are even worse. But even if you have drinkable water, you cannot guarantee it is not contaminated. The sewage and water lines leak and their contents mix."

But Carlos Vidal, the minister of health, believes the disease can be controlled. He has promised immediate action to limit the dumping of untreated sewage into the sea, and said Peru was seeking a foreign loan to build sewage treatment plants outside Lima. He said, however, that the loan had been delayed until Peru completes its "reinsertion" — the painful effort to return to the international financial community.

That effort, which depends on increasing exports to pay off debts, might be set back by the epidemic's economic side-effects. Several countries have banned Peruvian imports and the European Community has promised to send a commission to Peru to determine whether its exports are cholera-free.

Although Señor Vidal thanked foreign governments for their medical help during the epidemic, he said: "The biggest help they could give us is to avoid these unilateral, unscientific restrictions."

Chinese population rise beats planners

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEIJING

CHINA'S population grew by more than 16 million in 1990, adding more mouths to feed than the population of the crowded city of Shanghai, according to figures issued by the State Statistical Bureau yesterday.

The figures bring China's population to 1.143 billion. Planners are trying to keep it below 1.3 billion at the end of the century, but census results showed earlier this year that strict birth-control policies had not altogether succeeded.

Planners fear that if the population expands beyond 1.3 billion, there will not be enough food to go round. They are especially anxious since in the next few years the baby boomers of the Cultural Revolution will themselves be giving birth and producing a new boom. The bureau said yesterday that the crude birth rate was 21.06 per 1,000 and the death rate 6.67 per 1,000, meaning the natural growth rate was 14.39 per 1,000.

China is notorious for its one-child policy, but social pressure has forced the authorities to bend the rules, allowing peasants and minority peoples to have more children. In many cases, government officials have turned a blind eye to excess births, often because they too are breaking the rules.

Sometimes the officials simply want to collect the fine for having an extra child: the more children, the more fines. It is in the cities that the greatest pressure is put on women to comply and if necessary to have abortions rather than babies.

● HONG KONG: Xu Jiatun, Peking's most senior official in Hong Kong before his defection to the United States, has been stripped of China of his official posts in the National People's Congress and accused of betrayal. He was the director of the New China News Agency, Peking's unofficial embassy in Hong Kong. (Reuter)

Peggy Lee challenges the mighty Mouse

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN NEW YORK

MICKEY, Donald and the gang may be everyone's idea of friendly fun, but their creator has long been known in Hollywood as the toughest of bare-knuckle legal avengers. Under the slogan "You don't mess with the mouse," teams of lawyers do round-the-clock battle to preserve the purity of Walt Disney property, and they take pride in never losing.

Recently they nailed a Florida nursery school which had painted Mickey, Minnie, Donald and Goofy on walls of the playground. Across the world, Disney's teams pounce on anyone who purloins the image of the cartoon characters.

But now the company is being sued for tens of millions of dollars by Cin-

derella, Sleeping Beauty and the human behind the cartoon cast of *The Lady and the Tramp*. Leading the litigation is Peggy Lee, the singer, who provided voices and co-wrote songs for *The Lady and the Tramp* in 1955.

In a dramatic scene on Wednesday, Miss Lee, now aged 70 and in frail health, was carried in a wheelchair into a Los Angeles court at the start of what is expected to be a long legal battle over the rights to royalties on the videocassette releases of Disney's hit cartoons. Suits are also pending from Mary Costa, the voice of the Princess Beauty and Ilene Woods Shaughnessy, the voice of Cinderella.

Miss Lee says she earned \$4,000 for providing the voices of the sultry singing dog Peg, the Siamese cats

and Darling, the human owner of Lady. She and Sonny Burke, who wrote the songs with her, retained all rights for recordings and transcriptions.

The Lady and the Tramp has earned \$140 million for Disney, including \$90 million from the video sale, according to Miss Lee's lawyers. The film beat *Top Gun* as the biggest selling video of 1987 and has sold more than three million copies. Miss Lee is charging Disney with breach of contract and unlawful enrichment, citing the clause on transcription. Disney's lawyers insist that "transcription" applied to audio recording discs and not to video technology that did not exist when her contract was signed in 1952.

In an initial hearing last

year, the court found that Disney was at fault for releasing the videos without the singer's permission but the company has vowed to fight to the last appeal.

Miss Lee believes that Disney is trying to drag out

the litigation until after her death. "They're trying to wish me gone, but I'm not. I'm still here," she told the *Los Angeles Times*.

A year ago, a Disney-controlled company in Florida, the home of Disney World, caused a furore when it pre-empted an attempt by a local agency to build housing for the poor. Among their recent victories, the Disney lawyers forced the Mickey Mouse pub in Beloit Wisconsin to change its name.

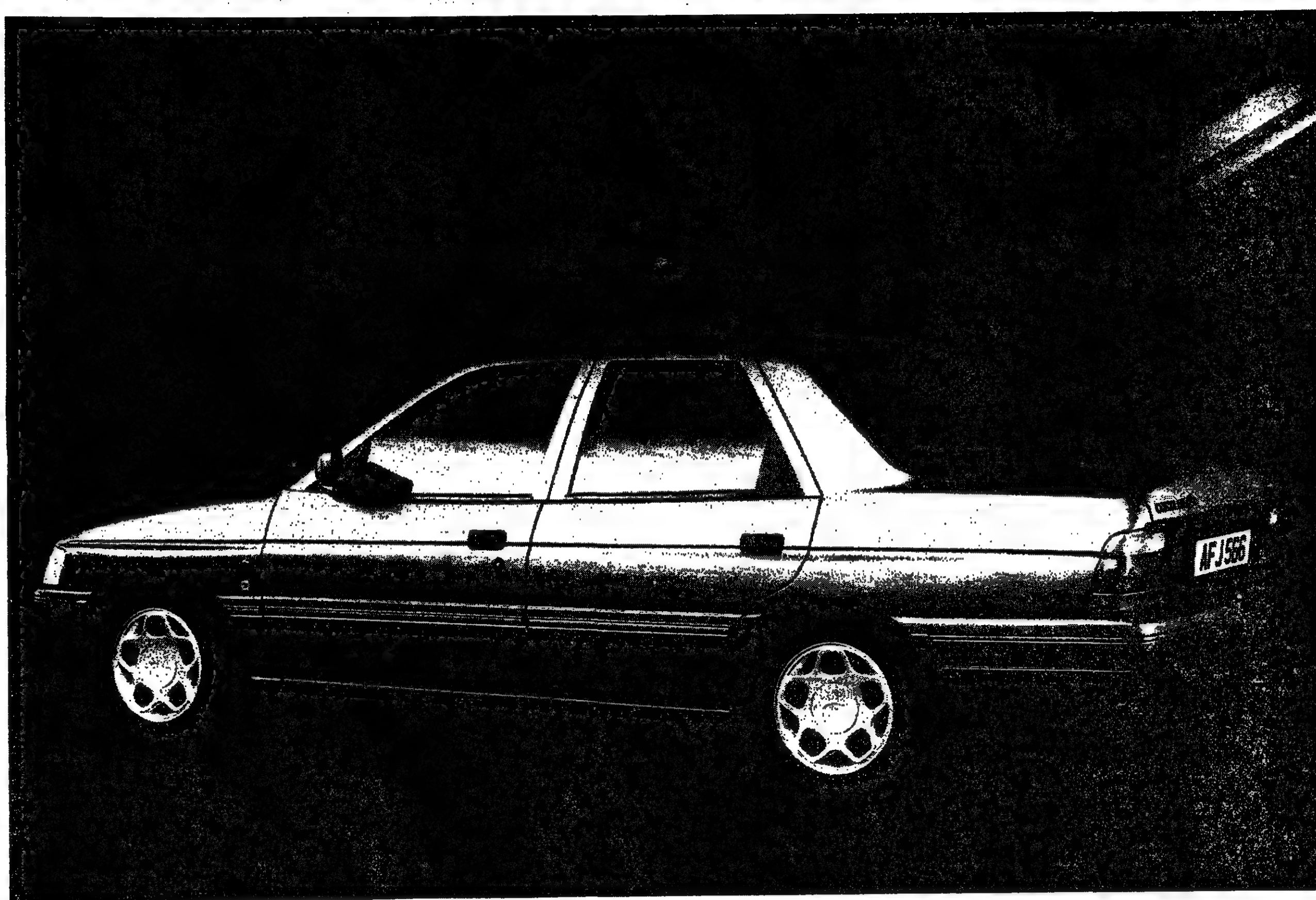
They prevented the city fathers of White River, Ontario, from erecting a statue to mark the birthplace of a bear cub that went to London Zoo and is said to have helped inspire A. A. Milne to write *Winnie the Pooh*. Disney owns the Pooh film rights.



Peggy Lee: "They're trying to wish me gone"

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BACK TO REALITY

The choice given President Saddam Hussein yesterday in the White House Rose Garden was no starker than the choice he has been given by the United Nations for months. Disgorge Kuwait, or be forced to. The diplomacy of the past week has served, as Saddam presumably intended, to obscure that choice. President Bush has now, after careful consultation with the rest of the coalition, closed off the avenues of procrastination which Saddam has been exploring with such skill since August 2.

While tactfully expressing his "appreciation" for Moscow's last-ditch diplomacy, Mr Bush made plain that there are to be no more riddles wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma, to paraphrase Churchill, whether emanating from the Kremlin or from Baghdad. Mr Bush gave Saddam until 5pm today, London time, to "begin his immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait" or face a ground war.

Saddam's scope for cloaking that withdrawal in the rhetoric of victory, as he has done with every previous tactical or even strategic defeat in his career, is minimal. A joint allied statement set out the terms which Saddam must, in Mr Bush's words, accept "publicly and authoritatively" and in their entirety. These shift the ground decisively from the talk of conditions and counter-conditions which had begun to blur the clarity of United Nations resolutions, to the solid ground of the mechanics of withdrawal. Iraq was given until 8am on Monday, local time, to leave Kuwait City — permitting the legitimate government to return on Monday, Kuwait's national day — and a week to complete its forces' retreat. Allied forces would not harass retreating troops, but there is no question of a ceasefire until all Iraqi forces have left Kuwait.

The decision frees the alliance of an increasingly embarrassing entanglement in Saddam's gameplan for survival. Diplomacy and the sword have this in common: the first hint of ultimate concession is when one side accepts the other's terms of reference. For seven days, the pressure had been on the alliance to do just that. Had diplomacy continued down the tortuous path mapped

out first in Baghdad and then in Moscow, a political solution could have been bought only at the price of meeting Iraq's consistent demand for the setting aside of the mandatory UN resolutions condemning its invasion and annexation of Kuwait and laying down the penalties for continued violations of international law. That would have offered no lasting solution in the Gulf, and would have set a dangerous precedent for dealing with future aggression.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait last August, Saddam's use of diplomacy has been to deflect attention from his violation of international law. There was little to suggest that the current negotiations in Moscow, where talks between President Gorbachev and Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, produced no clear result yesterday morning, would break that pattern. Mr Bush was right to cut through the verbal web, bringing Iraq back to the original cause of its quarrel with the international community: its aggression against Kuwait.

There was a compelling reason for calling a halt to this game, the evidence that Saddam was carrying out his threat of last August to make Kuwait "a graveyard". On Wednesday, Kuwaiti officials reported that Iraqi troops and secret police had begun to murder torture victims who, if left alive, could have given evidence of atrocities. Yesterday, smoke billowed from Kuwait's oilfields, where the Pentagon claimed that a quarter of the wells had, within the previous 24 hours, been set on fire. Allied anxiety about Saddam's "scorched earth" policy is reflected in the insistence that Iraq remove all booby traps attached to Kuwaiti installations, cease persecuting Kuwaiti civilians and release all detainees.

The allied terms are unanimous. They are squarely within the terms set by the United Nations. They do not extend allied war aims. There are no new conditions regarding Saddam's future or the future of his armed forces. They permit of no cheating. Saddam can still avoid a ground war. But whichever course he chooses, he has lost the diplomatic battle.

A VISIT TO ULSTER

John Major did well to go to Ulster yesterday, in the aftermath of the resumption of a "mainland" IRA terror campaign, the prime minister's trip should reassure the security forces and a population which feels that British politicians only involve themselves in outrages close to home.

But is Mr Major's interest merely presentational? Will he continue the practice of sending unfashionable colleagues to Belfast, recite the usual ritual about "defeating terrorism" and pretend that Britain's most shameful political failure is no failure at all or is purely a security matter?

Mr Major must never permit the IRA to dictate by its atrocities how and at what speed the political future of Ulster can be discussed. Such dictation has been allowed for most of the time since direct rule was introduced in 1972. The Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 produced neither a cessation of violence nor progress towards the overriding objective of British ministers since 1972, a return to devolved government and an end of direct rule. To its credit, it led to stronger pan-Irish security co-operation and has drawn more Unionist hardliners into some acceptance of an "Irish dimension" in Ulster's future.

More worrying is that the agreement seems to have led British ministers towards a belief that regular links with Dublin, occasional successes over the IRA and the indefinite extension of direct rule together constitute an objective. Ministers used to declare their priority as the ending of direct rule and a return to devolved government. Taxed further, they would add that the longer direct rule lasted, the more enervated (and illicit) would become local politics, the more corrupt the economy and the harder power-sharing would be to achieve.

How right they were. Today, British ministers have moved from the "temporary" accommodation at Stormont to the proconsular splendour of the governor's mansion at Hillsborough. Their objective is now that of British colonialism under

pressure down the ages: "the final defeat of terrorism". Victory is always "just around the corner". As for direct rule, the natives are said to prefer it to having their own "third division" in charge instead.

The British government hates descriptions of its role in Ulster as colonial. But as long as Ulster enjoys less autonomy even than an English county, the colonial parallel is applicable. Nowhere in Britain does a government minister directly administer local housing, schools, roads, planning and police. Nowhere in Britain is a bright young Tory minister sent, like a district commissioner of old, to sort out a squabble over the local bus stop.

In the 1980s, Britain had a sensible policy: rolling devolution under a tight security umbrella. Unfortunately, the leaders of both sides of the community were granted a veto over the timing of the agenda. Responsible local leadership was driven from the exercise of power as British ministers took over more administration into their hands. The resulting shambles of paramilitarism, economic distress, gangsterism and corruption reached its nadir this month in the proposed new legislation against "terrorist funds". The best description of these measures is that they are laws against outlawry, the reduction to absurdity of British direct rule.

Were there easy answers in Northern Ireland, a well-meaning British government would have found them by now. But ministers are running away from harder ones that they or their successors must confront. The entrenchment of direct rule — to some British officials, devolution would be "a victory for the IRA" — is a serious development. The Northern Irish will never be bribed or seduced into taking more responsibility for governing their own society. It must be forced on them, and to a fixed timetable. The cabinet only flatters the IRA by using its actions as an excuse for delay. Mr Major's visit should not have been in vain.

PEKING'S PECKING ORDER

A recent cartoon showed a chicken and an egg at a supermarket check-out. The cashier was asking: who's next? Where did the chicken cross the road? In China, perhaps, whence comes news this week of what looks like a feather-brained initiative in matters fowl. A flock of Chinese pioneer chickens is being fitted with rose-tinted lenses.

This is not to give them a rosier outlook on life in Deng's battery. The aim is to test a theory that a rosy outlook produces more eggs. According to China's *Farmer's Daily* — required reading down on the collective farm — the hope is that red lenses will calm the chickens, increase their egg-laying and, in a notable coup against revisionist tendencies, "effectively correct the chickens' bad habit of pecking their anus".

Gao Jinyuan, the manager of a test chicken farm in the coastal city of Hangzhou, is reportedly hopeful that the experiment could increase egg production by 6 per cent. In China, that is a lot of eggs. There is, however, a dearth of information about how these lenses will be fitted. Are they contact lenses? If so, the calm induced by their rosy hue could be cancelled out by the stress induced by the propensity of lenses to fall out, usually two minutes before the wearer leaves for the ballet.

Admittedly chickens are not often seen at the ballet. But human and animal behaviour

has many similarities, so the vision of a chicken scurrying about in search of a lost contact lens, with one claw clapped over an eye and clucking foul language, will be familiar enough to those who live with lens wearers. "Why did the chicken not choose spectacles?" becomes the real question.

To any spectacle-wearer in the habit of nodding, the answer is obvious. Chickens suffer acutely from this habit, their legs synchronised with their heads in a constant rhythmic dance. In the case of humans, God has favoured opticians by designing ears that accommodate spectacles amid all but the most vigorous sycophantic nodding. The ears of chickens are flimsy things.

At which point the overwhelming question must be asked: does anybody high in the pecking order of Europe's common agricultural policy read China's *Farmer's Daily*? He (or she) will now. Chinese chickens parading in designer specs must tempt any British farmer to apply for a lens subsidy with an eye to an egg mountain. But avaricious rustics should be warned. We understand there is British legislation in place which frowns upon the fitting of spectacles to chickens — for "welfare reasons". This answers the timeless question. Before either the chicken or the egg came the bureaucrat, no doubt wearing rose-tinted spectacles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Steps towards a 'new world order'

From Mr W. B. Adlard

Sir, Michael Howard ("Think hard on total war", February 19) asks whether President Bush is set on a "total war of overthrow", but he does not seem to appreciate fully the combination of legal and military considerations which determined the Allies' response to initiatives from Baghdad.

Above all, this war is a war for the rule of law. UN resolution 660, which has the force of law, requires unconditional withdrawal. None of the members of the alliance can therefore give their approval to anything less or they compromise the rule of law.

If the rule of law is upheld this time, a precedent of the utmost importance for international relations will have been established which may lay the foundation for a future era of co-operation and respect for law among nations. This, I believe, is what President Bush means by a "new world order", not the re-shaping of the Middle East to suit US interests.

There are many important issues in the Middle East to be discussed. But it would be wholly unlawful for Saddam Hussein to be permitted to attempt to influence the outcome or even the holding of negotiations by his relying on a continued presence in Kuwait or by delaying or prolonging his departure. He is entitled to no better bargaining position in seeking such negotiations than if he had never invaded Kuwait in the first place.

Assurances about the territorial integrity of Iraq, non-interference in its internal affairs and non-continuation of economic sanctions (other than for military hardware) after withdrawal could and should be given, consistently with the Security Council resolutions. In reality, this amounts to no more than a restoration, as far as possible, of the status quo ante. But all other issues ought to be deferred until after Iraq is out of Kuwait.

Whether the military means being employed towards that end are excessive cannot be evaluated until the full picture has emerged, including Iraqi brutality in Kuwait. But it has to be remembered that there is no easy route to the quick and decisive expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait which must be assured.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ADLARD,
1 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.
February 19.

From Ms Scilla Elworthy

Sir, We British have an affinity for the use of sporting metaphors. The goalposts, when British soldiers were first sent to the Gulf, were to stop Saddam Hussein invading Saudi Arabia. When more soldiers were sent, the goalposts were moved to driving his army out of Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein is now ready to withdraw his army from Kuwait. If the British government rejects this offer, or refuses to negotiate, the goalposts are being moved once again.

But this is not a game. The price of moving the goalposts a third time will be hundreds, possibly thou-

sands, of British soldiers incinerated in their tanks, and blown to pieces by mines. A wise coach would blow the whistle before carnage on the field sends the supporters away in mourning.

Yours faithfully,
SCILLA ELWORTHY,
32 Warborough Road, Oxford.
February 22.

From Rear-Admiral E. S. J. Larken

Sir, This war, like most wars (and certainly the Falklands, in which I served), is a consequence of political failure, and there is therefore a delicate political balance to be struck between not humiliating the loser excessively whilst making it excellently clear who has won.

Arab susceptibilities being both acute and complex, judgments now will be extraordinarily difficult. But insurance against future political breakdowns is vital, associated with the need both to sustain sufficient armed forces and to foster international will against outlaw activity.

Manikind must not lose the stomach to right single-mindedly fundamental wrongs, even if this can only be done at very high human and environmental cost. In a world policed weakly, burglars and bullies will flourish. "Pale Ebenezer" thought it wrong to fight, but Roaring Bill (who killed him) thought it right.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JEREMY LARKEN,
Commonwealth Trust,
18 Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

From Mr Philip Dixon

Sir, The United Nations Security Council resolution 660 refers to "withdrawal" without adequate definition of that action. Could I raise one pertinent factor that should not be overlooked, that is, the removal of mines laid by the Iraqis?

There are large areas of Kuwait which will have to be sterilised because of mines, difficult to locate. Someone will have to be trained to destroy or defuse these, with the least risk to life or limb. Otherwise hundreds of returning Kuwaitis will be at risk for years to come.

Those who, like myself, lost limbs in this process, and I have seen hundreds in limb centres around the world being fitted with inadequate replacements, are anxious not to enlarge our club membership.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP DIXON
(Chairman of Council),
World Veterans Federation,
16 rue Hamelin,
Paris 75116, France.

From Mr Julian Seymour

Sir, I believe that you are prevented for reasons of military security from reporting the daily temperatures and weather forecasts for the Gulf.

As these details are highlighted daily in the special war section of *The New York Times*, might the Ministry of Defence consider a review of this absurd restriction?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SEYMOUR,
Res Harway, Sandwich Bay,
Sandwich, Kent.

Motorway habits

From Dr G. J. Cresswell

Sir, Mr R. M. Worcester (February 15) dismisses as "frightening" the 13 per cent of respondents to a national survey of motoring habits who believe that "speed limits don't mean much and drivers should judge for themselves what speed is acceptable".

But such a belief is wholly justified. No sound and logical mind would deduce the maximum safe speed to be the same on a dry empty motorway in the middle of the night as on the same road in icy and foggy conditions in the rush hour. If you make intellectually insupportable or arbitrary rules you must not be surprised when people ignore them totally or obey arbitrarily.

This is why Mr Worcester is

overtaken so frequently and why, even so, a minority of drivers continue to drive at the arbitrary speed limit — a behaviour which is described (reasonably) as "motorway madness" and received (unreasonably) with incredulity.

All arbitrary speed limits should be abolished and, instead, the offence of dangerous driving (with its associated severe penalties) should be expanded to include driving at a speed from which it is not possible to stop within the distance which can be seen to be clear. If you treat people as adults they usually respond accordingly. If you treat them as children they always do so.

Yours faithfully,
G. J. CRESSWELL,
The Old Pump House, Kilmeston,
Aldershot, Hampshire.

Then and now

From Mr Gordon Craig

Sir, Towards the conclusion of a history lesson, I asked my class to consider whether they knew of any current conflict caused by one state wishing to expand its territory by war, as did Rome in its early history. According to your report (February 13), this practice will be prohibited by Mr Kenneth Clarke as from next year. I cannot see why a distinction between history and current affairs is either necessary or desirable.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON CRAIG,
5 Anson, Fostonford,
Surrey, Shropshire.

Leader's departure

From Councillor M. Caplan and others

Sir, Dame Shirley Porter's decision to stand down as leader of Westminster City Council (report, February 21) implied that she had come under pressure from some of her colleagues, in particular those elected for the first time in the Conservative victory last year, to resign. A number of her colleagues did their best to persuade her to stay on. That they were unsuccessful is a matter of great regret and to none more than those, like ourselves, who were elected for the first time last May.

Yours faithfully,
MELVYN CAPLAN,
SIMON BROCKLEBANK,
ANDREAS GLEDHILL,
MARTIN JONES,
NICHOLAS MARKHAM,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1.

Risk to game shows

From Mr Richard Bridge and Mrs Shelley Lane

Sir, Having been involved in the game show format rights campaign, we are glad that Mr Michael Brown (February 12) accepts that these formats are inadequately protected against copying.

Existing forms of intellectual property law certainly do not provide this protection. Confidentiality, for example, protects only until public disclosure, broadcasts of a format must amount to such disclosure.

"Passing off" (the tort of misrepresenting your products as someone else's) is a vague and uncertain area of law — it remains uncomfortably possible for a copyist adequately to distinguish his product from the original merely by changing the compete, title and channel and as the result of a Privy Council

Shedding light on community forests

From the Director General of the Countryside Commission

Sir, I fear there are some gaps in Marion Shoard's understanding of the thinking behind the new programme of community forests announced last week ("Woodman, spare us this cash demand", February 16). Most of the areas which have been identified are degraded environments. The "countryside" south of Tyneside, east of Dagenham and in the Bedfordshire brickfields are the kinds of depressing areas which community forests will transform into places which give pleasure to people, create new habitats for wildlife and make "green" belts truly green.

The planting will not be wall-to-wall conifers with mixed broadleaf and conifers with open country between. Woven into the community forests will be a rich variety of landscapes, including woodland, farmland, heathland, flower-filled meadows and lakes — indeed the very kinds of landscape which Ms Shoard suggests that people like to visit.

Conservation of the English countryside is not only about protecting what is best in the landscape we have inherited; it is also about investing in the landscape of the future. Community forests offer an exciting opportunity to remedy the past abuse of the environments around our cities — for the long-term benefits of both people and nature.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN PHILLIPS,
Director General,
Countryside Commission,
John Dower House,
Crescent Place,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
February 18.

From Dr D. J. L. Harding

Sir, I was sorry to see Marion Shoard perpetuating certain myths about forests and global warming. Trees, like all green plants, trap carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but also return some

through respiration; if there is a surplus of carbon it is used for the growth of tissues, sequestering being particularly effective in long-lived trunks, branches and major roots.

Eventually, after a century or so, net gain ceases, the trees' respiratory contribution being increasingly supplemented by the release of CO₂ from dead tissues by decomposers or by forest fires. An unmanaged forest, with a balance of age-classes, is carbon-neutral: that fixed by growth is balanced by death and decay.

New plantings can help to absorb some of the extra CO₂ emanating from the burning of fossil fuels or the destruction of forests, but only so long as the carbon is locked up, whether as standing trunks, as durable timber products or as humus. Unless rising sea levels lead to carboniferous-type swamps, Ms Shoard's scenario of conversion to coal is so much hot air.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. L. HARDING,
Wolverhampton Polytechnic,
School of Applied Sciences,
Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton,
February 18.

From Mrs Michael Hughes-Hallett

Sir, Wordsworth might well have endorsed Marion Shoard's argument. In his 1810 *Guide to the Lakes*, after some sharpish strictures on "those who plant for profit", the poet speaks of the contrast between the "joint work of Nature and time" and the

disheartening necessities, restrictions, and disadvantages, under which the artificial planter must proceed... In the first place his trees, however well chosen and adapted to their several situations, must generally start all at the same time; and this necessity would of itself prevent that fine connection of parts, that sympathy and organisation... which pervades the whole of a natural wood.

Yours faithfully,
PENELOPE HUGHES-HALLETT,
Barton Old Rectory,
Morton-on-Marsh,
Gloucestershire,
February 16.

Graceful old age for rural churches

From Mrs E. G. Benians

Sir, The report published by the Bishop of Norwich's commission on Norfolk churches (details, February 16) suggests that where one or two families are able to keep open a church this should be enough to revive it in the future. Presumably this policy is to be encouraged. It is disconcerting to find that where this has actually taken place there should be attempts to stifle opportunities for public worship.

I know of one small, isolated medieval church in this diocese. All Saints, Rackheath, which was somewhat precipitately declared redundant, although much sought after as a place of quiet contemplation. It was featured in the "Change and Decay" exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1977, since when a group of volunteers, with the help of various charities, private subscriptions and world-wide contacts (particularly Americans of local descent) have restored it to its former beauty and dignity.

The group worked amazingly hard for the fabric and, aware of their inheritance and responsibility for the future, arranged for Evening Song once a month, together with occasional services at the great church festivals and the use once or twice each year by the scattered Roman Catholic community.

This seems not to have affected the neighbouring churches: services are traditional and conducted by clergy, young curates to retired deacons, who give of their leisure time, and occasionally by a group in

accordance with the rubrics of the Prayer Book.

Now, at the beginning of this so-called "Decade of Evangelism", the rector of the parish in which All Saints is located has recommended to the church's management committee that public worship must be limited to four "events" in the year.

It is most disturbing that, when membership of the church has declined and the nation is so spiritually impoverished, anybody should attempt to restrict the opportunities for worship.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH BENIANS,
26 Victoria Street,
Sheringham, Norfolk.
February 16.

From Mr Gordon Ridgewell

Sir, The report by the Bishop of Norwich's commission, advocating that medieval churches should be allowed to grow old gracefully instead of being converted to other uses, is to be welcomed.

As they go back to nature our medieval churches develop unexpected charm and symbolise man's relationship to nature. As one whose eye is sensitive to the charms of certain forms of decay I have noted with dismay how conversions have resulted in the loss of that one quality that has made them so venerable — the effect of age.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON RIDGEWELL,
53 The Wick, Hertford.
February 18.

Waiting at hospitals

From Dr R. S. Lenfestey

Sir, The National Audit Office, in its report (details, February 15) criticised, among other things, the time a patient has to wait in the clinic before he sees a doctor. I am such a doctor, a medical registrar, and some of the criticism as it has been reported today is unfair.

It is true that patients do have to wait, sometimes a considerable length of time, in outpatients clinics. It is the practice in the hospital where I work to minimise this time by not overbooking the clinics, but sometimes a wait is inevitable.

Doctors have other duties in a hospital, most important of which is attending sick inpatients on the wards. If a ward patient requires urgent attention when a doctor is

due in the outpatients' clinic, it is clear that the ward must take priority in order, perhaps, to save that person's life. This increases the waiting time in the clinic.

Patients take a variable amount of time to see in the clinic, depending on the nature and the severity of their problems. This again increases waiting times and it makes sticking to appointments rigidly impossible.

The large numbers of patients attending the outpatients' clinic and the doctors' requirements to be elsewhere in the hospital renders some delay unavoidable, a situation that none of us, doctors, nurses and patients alike, enjoy.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. LENFESTEY,
9 Dale View Close,
Barnston, Wirral, Merseyside.
February 15.

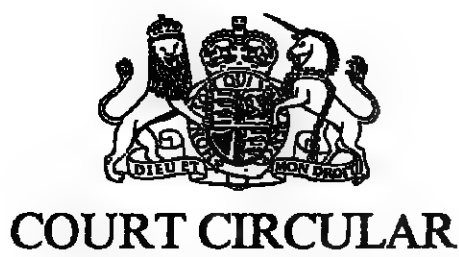
Points of order

From Mr Charles Campbell

Sir, My great grandmother was a reader of *The Times*. She used to look at the births column first and if the first child was a girl, then she would have a good day; it might have been a boy. My system is more complex and probably just as unreliable. I read the anniversaries, and give a score, such as: Hitler born -5 points; Keats born +6 points; Martin Luther died +6; Pascal died -7. If the "goodies" score more than the "baddies" then my day will be fine. Also if I can do 1 across in the crossword immediately without thinking about it, that is a bad sign.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CAMPBELL,
44 Trigon Road, SW8.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 22: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited Port Regis School, Motcombe Park, Shaftesbury today and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Dorset (the Lord Dugby) and Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Cunningham (Chairman of the Board of Governors).
Escorted by Mr David Prichard (Headmaster), Her Majesty, with Her Royal Highness, opened the National Centre for Junior Gymnastics and unveiled a commemorative plaque.
Afterwards the Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, toured the School and honoured the Headmaster with her presence at luncheon in Cromer Hall.
The Lady Farnham, Sir Kenneth Scott and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr John Henderson (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Berkshire) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Douglas Baskin (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Caracas) which

was held in Eton College Chapel this afternoon.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 22: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Army Casualty Information and Casualty Procedure Cells and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Headquarters at Emsay State Building, London SW5.
His Royal Highness, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, this evening attended a reception for the Executive Board at Brook's, St James's Street, London SW1.
Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.
KENSINGTON PALACE
February 22: The Prince of Wales, President of Business in the Community, visited the Cynon Valley, Mid-Glamorgan, to meet young Welsh Business Leaders and the Cynon Valley Business Leadership Team.
Subsequently, His Royal Highness attended a Volunteering seminar where he met local Welsh employers and Swansea Bay Volunteers, in Aberdare.
The Prince of Wales was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Mid-Glamorgan (Mr Murray McLagan).
Mr Guy Saker was in attendance.

Tomorrow's royal engagement

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a performance of music and drama at the Danish Church, Regent's Park, at 7.55.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr W.E. Allen, author, 80; the Duke of Beaufort, 63; Lord Ezra, 72; Miss M.L. Farrer, former chairman, C.I. Ford, 77; Lord Forteviot, 85; Mr Frank Genselberg, principal, George Watson's College, Edinburgh, 50; the Earl of Lincoln, 78; Mr Anton Mossmann, chef, 44; Lord St. Leon, 72; Sir Christopher Tugendhat, chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 54; Mr David Ward, former president, Law Society, 54; Don Aedon Watkins, former headmaster, Downside School, 73.
TOMORROW: Professor George Beu, principal, London Business School, 52; Professor E. Boydell, bio-chemist, 86; Mr Brian Close, cricketer, 60; Dr Lionel Dakers, former director, Dr. Richard Freeman, former MP, 65; Mr Richard Hamilton, painter, 69; Lord Hastings, 81; Mr Paul Jones, singer and actor, 48; Earl Kintore, 72; Mr David Langdon, cartoonist and illustrator, 77; Mr Denis Law, footballer, 51; Lord Melchett, 43; Admiral Sir William Pillar, 67; Mr Alan Prosser, racing driver, 36; Mr David Randall, cricketer, 40; Sir Frank Rogers, deputy chairman, The Daily Telegraph and chairman, NPA, 71; Mr Harry Urrdin, trades unionist, 76; Sir Edgar Vaughan, diplomat, 84; Mr Dennis Waterman, actor, 43.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Samuel Pepys, London, 1633; George Frederic Handel, Halle, Germany, 1685; Meyer Amischel, Rothschild, banker, Frankfurt, 1743; George Watts, painter, London, 1817.
DEATHS: Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1st president of the Royal Academy, 1768-92; London, 1792; John Keats, Rome, 1821; Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th president of the USA 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Dame Nellie Melba, soprano, Sydney, NSW, 1931; Stan Laurel (the Art and Stanley Jefferson), Santa Monica, California, 1965; L.S. Lowry, painter, Glossop, Derbyshire, 1976; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Kent, 1983.
The Cato Street conspiracy was uncovered, 1820.

TOMORROW: Charles Le Brun, painter, Paris, 1619; James Cook, explorer, 1728-1779; Wilhelm Grimm, historian and folklorist collector, Hanau, Germany, 1786; Winslow Homer, painter, Boston, Massachusetts, 1836; George Moore, novelist, Dublin, 1862; Arnold Dolmetsch, musician, Le Mans, 1858.
DEATHS: Henry Cavendish, physicist and chemist, London, 1810; Robert Fulton, pioneer of the steamboat, New York, 1815; Thomas Bowdler, censor of Shakespeare, Swansea, 1825; Edmund Armstrong, poet, Kingstown, Ireland, 1865.

Mountbatten Festival of Music

The Princess of Wales attended the annual Mountbatten Festival of Music, given by the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, in the Albert Hall on February 20. The concert was also held on February 21 and 22, when the principal guests were the Countess Mountbatten of Burma, the Lord Timothy Knatchbull, Sir Michael Quinlan, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Defence, and Lady Quinlan. The concert was conducted by Mr Desmond Carrington and Miss Susanah Simons.

The festival, in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, Royal Naval, Royal Marines and other Service and civilian charities, provided a continuing tribute to the late Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, formerly Life Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Marines. The Commandant General Royal Marines, Lieutenant General Sir Henry Berkeley, and Lady Berkeley were the hosts. The guests were:

OBITUARIES

Eric Hosking, OBE, photographer, ornithologist and broadcaster, died on February 22 aged 81. He was born on October 2, 1909.

Eric Hosking enjoyed a worldwide reputation as a wildlife photographer. He was the first British professional wildlife photographer and for over half a century his bird photographs in particular have delighted naturalists and ornithologists alike while providing inspiration to aspiring nature photographers.

His expeditions took him from the Antarctic to India and from the Arctic to the Kalahari desert and his many publications, not least of bird photography, won him wide acclaim. His broadcasting, which included participation in early television as well as frequent radio contributions, increased his popularity further.

Hosking was educated at the Stannions' Company School, and at the age of six he had already taken his first nature photograph of a song-thrush's nest and eggs. He had no doubt that he wanted to devote his life to natural history and photography, but his parents felt the motor industry would provide a more secure career. Ironically, four years later, in 1929, his employers went bankrupt and Eric Hosking found himself unemployed.

Shortly afterwards, a Fleet Street friend commissioned him to photograph a baby elephant seal at London Zoo. So began his entry into the world of press photography and in 1932 his first book *Friends at the Zoo* was published.

However, Hosking's heart was in wildlife photography and it was appropriately George Bird who initiated him in the technique of bird photography. Even so, in the early days, Hosking had to supplement his income with child and wedding photography. One of his first cameras was a quarter plate model purchased from Farrington Street market for seven shillings and six pence (37/6p). He was, however, never slow to try out new equipment and techniques. Many of his experiences are recalled in his autobiography *An Eye for a Bird*.

published in 1970 where he relates how he overcame a tray with magnesium powder to photograph a tawny owl at night. The flash produced such a huge explosion that the tree caught fire, with the result that the local fire brigade appeared on the scene. It was another tawny owl who robbed him of the sight of his left eye, but even after this experience he maintained his lifelong passion for ornithology.

He was eventually posted as Nicaraguan military attaché in Washington. He was out of the country during the civil war which ousted President Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Bermúdez was vocal in his criticism of the abuses which characterised much of Somoza's last year of power. This stance was recognised by the Carter administration. When President Carter sought to force Somoza to resign in 1979, United States diplomats recommended Bermúdez as an acceptable interim military commander.

The Sandinista seizure of power in July 1979 was welcomed both in Nicaragua and internationally. Within months, however, increasing numbers of Nicaraguans, including many of those prominent in the struggle against Somoza, saw the Nicaraguan revolution souring as

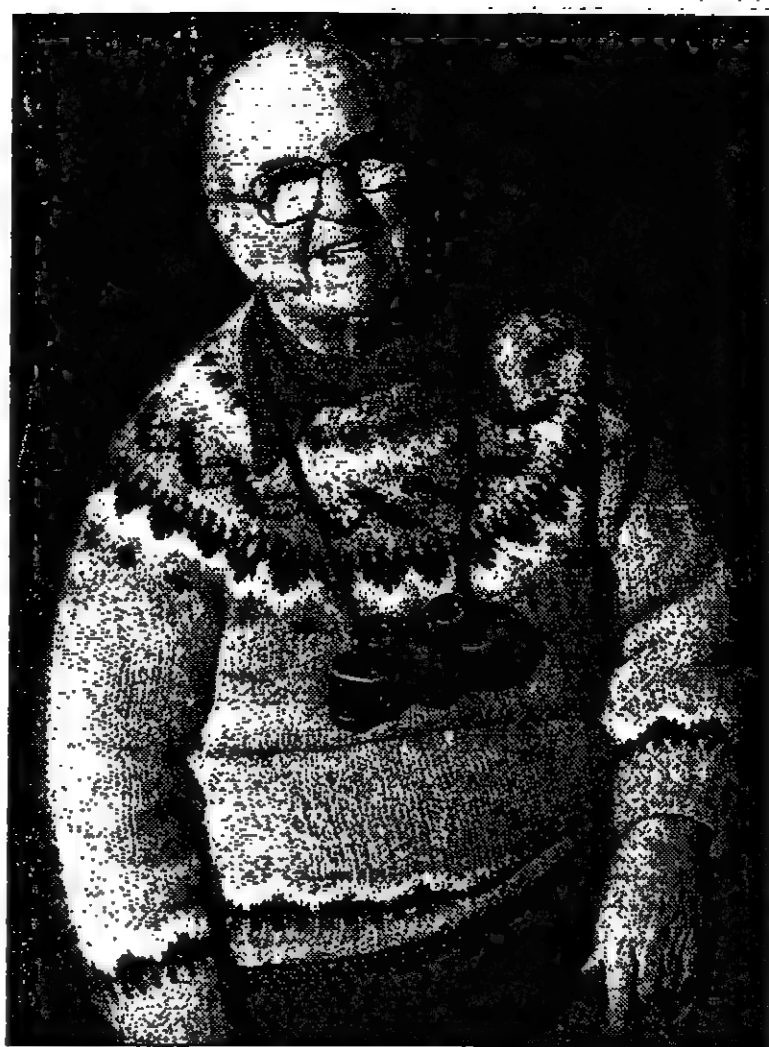
commanding its military wing. For the next eight years he commanded the force which would become known as the Contras in the armed struggle against the increasingly repressive Sandinista government. Under Bermúdez, the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance forces grew from 2,000 combatants to well over 20,000 men and women under arms, and began to receive United States diplomatic and military assistance. Unlike other Contra leaders he chose to live among his combatants, sharing their particularly gruelling life in remote camps along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. Accusations of human rights violations were levelled at the Contras and in an attempt to address this issue he introduced a system of monitoring, though this was difficult to enforce and did not satisfy all parties.

Bermúdez masterminded a series of guerrilla offensives in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Aimed at the Sandinista military and economic infrastructure, these offensives played a pivotal role in forcing the Sandinista government to the negotiating table, and ultimately to hold the elections early last year which ousted them from power.

Bermúdez returned to Nicaragua after the election victory of President Violeta Chamorro. He became increasingly involved in trying to secure and implement government guarantees made to demobilise Contra forces. It was immediately after a meeting on these issues with the minister of the interior in Managua last week that he was assassinated by an unknown gunman.

He is survived by his wife Elsa, and three children.

ERIC HOSKING



Hosking pioneered several flash techniques for bird photography, initially with bulbs and later using high speed electronic flash. He set up a photo-electric trigger so that the flying bird automatically triggered the camera and fired the flash.

One of his most famous flight pictures – taken in 1948 – depicts a barn owl in flight with its wings held up in an heraldic pose. This has appeared in publications in more than

ENRIQUE BERMÚDEZ



the Sandinistas began building a marxist state. Bermúdez was associated from his earliest days with the resistance to the Sandinista state, forming the Fuerza Democrática Nicaragüense (Nicaraguan Democratic Force) in August 1981, and creating and ultimately

Memorial services

St Dunstons West
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr J.R. Henderson, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Douglas Baskin held yesterday in Eton College Chapel. The Rev J.S. Witherspoon, Dean of Eton College, officiated and Lord Charters of Amisfield, provost, read the lesson.

Dr W.E.K. Anderson, headmaster, read from the words of J.C. Smuts and Hilson Brown, Mr T.S.B. Card, vice-provost, read the conclusion of *Four Quartets* by T.S. Eliot. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir Donald Logan and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr John Brown.

Dr Brian Knight, Chancellor of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, attended a Mass of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Brian Knight held yesterday in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Father John Brown, university chaplain, was the principal celebrant, assisted by Canon Alec Barras, Father Michael Corbett, Father Robert Spence, Father Adrian Pickering and Father Thomas Powell.

Mrs Hilary Taylor-Roe, assistant librarian, Robinson Library, Newcastle University, read *Duncan Hill* by Hilary Belloc and Professor Hugh Berrington, chairman of the library committee, read the lesson. Professor Laurence Martin gave an address.

Receptions

HM Government
Mr Michael Forsyth, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night in Stirling Castle for employees of the Forth Valley Health Board.

HM Government
Mr J. Allan Stewart, Minister for Industry and Local Government at the Scottish Office, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Bute House, Edinburgh, for enterprise and education advisers.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday in Lent
CATHEDRAL OF ST. ANDREW, Dundee
10.30 AM. Service of the Word. Rev. Canon J. R. Henderson, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, will officiate. The Lord's Prayer will be said. The Collect will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Gospel will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Creed will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Epistle will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Greeting will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Blessing will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Communion will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Agnus Dei will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Prayers will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Collect will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Gospel will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Creed will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Epistle will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Greeting will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Blessing will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Communion will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Agnus Dei will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Prayers will be for the Lord's Prayer. The Collect will be for the Lord's Prayer. 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Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Gin-starved boss gives pigs a tonic

I HAVE scanned a wealth of wise words relating to farm management, but nowhere have I seen published the basic rule which, this week, I broke. It goes: "No farmer should ever sit by the fire and think that all is well with his farm. This is asking for trouble."

Imagine the scene: the flames in the hearth licking high, the sloe gin about to be broached, the snow thawing to torrential rain. I decided I would just feed the pigs before the weather got any worse. The instant I got to the sty I sensed something was wrong. Those piglets know the sound of the kitchen door and even before I have got across the yard they are squealing with sudden hunger. This time they were silent. I assumed they were feeling the frost and keeping their heads well tucked under mother's warm and ample belly. But when I poured the swill and there was still no frenzy, I got worried. Alice, the sow, lumbered to her feet and took a few mouthfuls as if to be polite, but the litter of black piglets stayed heaped on each other in a pyramid, breathing deeply and looking like a wobbly blackberry jelly.

Slowly they stirred and my worst fears were confirmed: those curly little tails which would normally be coiled like bed-springs were hanging with a depressing limpness. As the rugby song has it: "When a pig's a failure it straightens out its tail. But all pigs' tails are curly 'cos piggies never fail." These pigs were sick. Failing.

The vet said the fast-growing litter had a feeding problem, so I gave them an extra dose of mince and went back to the roaring fire. I reached for the sloe gin and then I thought of the sheep. Better to feed them before dark.

Tightness gripped my stomach as I climbed into the sheep pen. We have a borrowed ram with the demeanour of a grumpy old major-general who has failed to grasp the idea of the vending machine and thinks you put your mouth under the spout; the ram does not understand that you eat the food from the trough and not from the bucket. In his eagerness he usually butts you, and it hurts. But this time there was no rushing, butting attack. He just stood by the wall, poor old soldier, trembling, weak and defeated. More

feeding problems? The feeding of stock is one of the most intricate of farming conundrums I have had to unravel. If you go to the merchant and buy a bag of ready-formulated "sheep nuts" or "pig nuts" it becomes simpler, but I am reluctant to do so: it is our aim to feed stock from what we grow. Economics force commercial farmers to do otherwise, with the result that what is fed to farm animals can be far from certain. So our stock eat oats, barley, kale, mangel-wurzels and sugar beet (which we do buy in), but it does mean that if the meals aren't carefully balanced you can omit some vital ingredient. Unlike humans, animals cannot run to the fruit bowl or the larder when some internal alarm goes off.

I went to my book of sheep husbandry and flicked through improbably named diseases: husk to hoose, blowwhirl to turnasick, gid to hydatid of the brain. I decided the ram had them all. I fell back in the chair, blowwhirled and giddy, and reached for the sloe gin again... then the phone rang.

"Pigeons are on your kale," came the bad tidings. Kale, I should explain, grows to a couple of feet high at this time of year and is the only green crop that stands proud of the snow. Hungry pigeons scan the horizon for like snowbound rail commuters seeking the lights of a station buffet. By the time I had rechecked the sloe gin and got up to the field, there were at least 300 pigeons on a mere two acres. Next day I called in the big guns.

A neighbour in a farm cottage is a keen, if less than accurate, shot and has time on his hands. He built a hide out of fallen branches and ex-army camouflage netting, dug himself in with a flask of tea and waited for the next winged sortie. In they flew, beaks sharpened, to be met with a hail of gunshot, most of which missed but certainly spoiled their appetites. The pigeons regrouped to plan their next attack. My man is on a constant state of alert. And so am I.

Although the piglets' tails have taken a distinct turn for the better and the old soldier of a ram is able to stand to attention once more, I am only too aware that an armed guard is needed to keep the peace on this troubled little farm.



A dog's life: the cartoonist Annie Tempest and Sondheim are looking forward to moving from London to the wide open spaces of the north at the family seat of Broughton Hall

Home from home: Annie Tempest

Finding a moor to walk the dog

Annie Tempest, abseiler, paraglider, white water rafter, was also the strip cartoonist of the year in 1990. She has worked for the *Daily Mail* since 1986.

This year, she believes, is a year for change. Her six-day-a-week strip, "The Yuppies", has become "Toys and Co.", and Miss Annie Tempest is to become Mrs James McConnell. After 11 years in London she is seriously considering darkening her Kensington studio, locking up her Chelsea flat, jumping into green wellies and heading for something greener than Green Park. Not just for the weekend but permanently.

"In London I spend my time going to drinks parties and I've been having the same conversation for ten years. I can't stand regurgitating rubbish about how fascinating it is to be a cartoonist. What I want to be doing is taking dogs for a walk."

Miss Tempest regularly rushes up the M1 to the north country. In Yorkshire she can take her dog for a run unencumbered by a poop scoop. The dog-friendly family seat is Broughton Hall.

gateway to the Dales," she says. One of her favourite spots lies in the middle of Broughton Hall's 3,000-acre estate. "It's a tiny moor, covered with heather, bluish and wild and all you could imagine a moor to be. Real Heathcliff country."

The 75-acre park that surrounds the house is rather tamer — perhaps Edgar Linton country. "It's beautifully designed," Miss Tempest says. "I can walk by the river, I can follow what we call the fairy walks through the grove or I can just wander around the formal Italian gardens."

Strictly speaking, it is her 27-year-old younger brother, Roger,

who is lord of the manor. He was barely old enough to be building tree houses when he inherited the "big house" and most of the estate from his bachelor uncle. Until 1987 their father, Henry, ran everything and had done so since they moved from Kirdlington, Oxfordshire, 15 years before, now father and son run the estate together.

Tempests have been at Broughton since 1324. The present house was built in 1597, after the previous one burnt down, and was extended once in the 18th and twice in the 19th centuries. With 70-odd rooms, it is the type of place that, should you be so

foolhardy as to spurn the chamberpot under the four-poster, leaves you with a mile-long trek of cold corridor to an even colder bathroom. "It's certainly large, generally chilly and we do tend to huddle in the smoking room or the conservatory as they're the warmest places," Miss Tempest says.

In one wing you will find her parents. One of the flats sometimes contains her youngest sixth-former brother on school holidays; another the other brother and his bride. A couple of sisters and their entourage are frequent visitors. The grandparents live in the converted stables. Various staff and tenants, together with the

employees of the 25 small companies relocated to this "stately home business park", mean that it is not that lonely. Television crews filming series such as *A Woman of Substance* and *Lucky Jim* make Broughton, now and again, a busy place. So if she likes crowds why is she unhappy in London?

"I do like to know that there are millions of people on my doorstep. But I only like to know that in my head," she says. "Life in the country is less stressful, less manic and less competitive. It's because of the fresh air and the greenness. Green is such a restful colour." As it takes five hours to get to this particular patch of green, she is intending to move her main home from London to Yorkshire.

"Both James and I have solitary jobs," she says; her fiancé is a composer. "To work, all I need is a fax, all he needs is room for a grand piano upon which to compose." Will moving to Yorkshire affect the cartoon? "I don't need to be in London to be inspired," she says. "The strip is set in my head. It could be any large town, not just London."

NICOLA MURPHY

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Feather report

Fishermen net a feathered haul

Technology is a wonderful thing. However, it puts ever cheaper, more effective, more readily available means of destruction into people's hands. The casual slaughter of seabirds is an example. True, we may not have the birds for much longer, but the technology is remarkable.

Fishing off our coasts is done increasingly with gill nets: a cheap and effective method of killing both fish and seabirds. Such fishing is watched over by the government's Sea Fisheries Committee, which has responsibility only for the commercial side of fishing. Nobody is responsible for the birds.

The nets have been banned in Scotland because of commercial considerations: they affect the salmon fishery. Gill nets work like curtains. Made of synthetic line, they come in various mesh sizes, of metres in length and normally about 20 metres deep. They can be anchored on the seabed or hung from the surface with floats. They create an invisible barrier.

The nets are non-exclusive; they kill diving birds in what appear to be huge numbers. The principal species killed are also fishers: gullmots and razorbill, the northern hemisphere's miniature flying penguins, members of the auk family, of which man has already killed off the great auk.

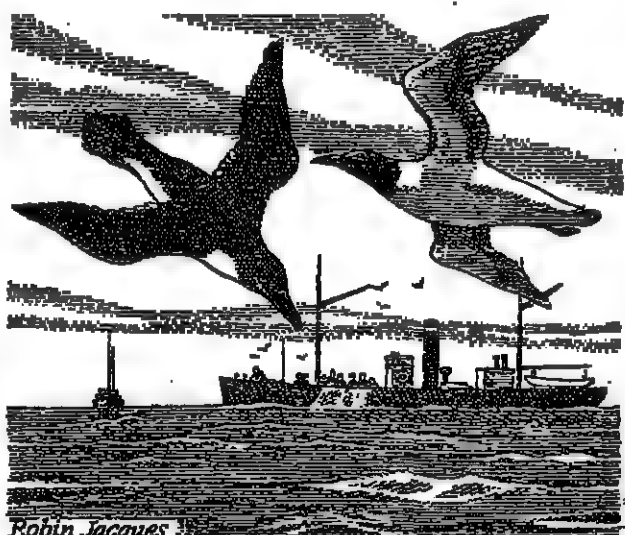
The nets also kill great northern diver, red-throated diver, Slavonian grebe, gannet, scaup, common scoter and long-tailed duck: all magnificent birds.

The RSPB has been monitoring gill-net fishing in St Ives Bay, Cornwall, and recently reported two separate incidents involving catches of 300 and 80 birds. There are 340 boats using gill nets in Cornwall alone.

The society called for a voluntary ban on the nets in St Ives Bay, but many fishermen have ignored this. The nets have too many advantages: they are very cheap and strong, and when they do get broken fishermen throw them away and get new ones. They are ideal for opportunists and freelancers.

One cannot wholly blame people in a county of low income and seasonal unemployment for taking a short-term view. One can certainly blame the fisheries department. "The ministry must take responsibility for wildlife as well as fishing," says Dr Nancy Harrison, the RSPB marine policy officer. "It must take urgent action to promote fishing practices which do not cause this indiscriminate killing."

The problem would be eased with a return to the more visible hemp netting, and/or by regulation of gill-net



Death drive: razorbill (left) and gullmots, victims of gill nets

fishing: where and when it takes place, banning the use of the nets in sensitive areas at sensitive times — when there are more fish, and, consequently, more birds around.

In St Ives Bay the most sensitive time is winter; at other places it is spring. Gill nets are regularly placed at the foot of seabird colonies: both fishermen and birds are there for the fish, of course. But the nets do not pick and choose.

Getting precise data on the extent of the problem is difficult. Much of the killing happens out at sea, out of sight and mind. The government has made clear in its white paper on the environment that it is interested in facts and research. The RSPB, however, has shown that a serious problem exists: just how serious is unclear. The inference from three months' monitoring in which 520 deaths were

logged is that it is colossal.

Dr Harrison says: "These incidents are visible proof of a huge, needless slaughter of wildlife. It is a national disgrace that an activity which causes so much destruction can be carried out quite openly, without any repercussions."

A full report on the problem, jointly produced by the RSPB and the World Wide Fund for Nature, will be available next month.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: *Birds — blackbird, duncock and chaffinch beginning to sing; listen for nutcracker and woodpecker. Witches — grey-headed gull at Broughborough Lake, Bedfordshire. Long-stayers include snowy owl in Lincolnshire, harlequin duck at Wick, Scotland, American bittern at Marton Mere, Lancashire. Details: Birdline, 0898 700222.*

Country events

THIS WEEKEND
• Crafts in action 91: Crafts sale and demonstration, deer park open, light refreshments and licensed bar.
Dunham Massey Hall, Altrincham, Greater Manchester, today, tomorrow, 10am-4.30pm.
• Duns Castle celebrations: Organised by the Duns 500 quincentennial committee, bonfire and fireworks display followed by a torchlight procession.
Duns Castle, Duns, Scottish Borders, today 6.30pm.
• RNS demonstration: A seed-sowing and summer planting demonstration to help you prepare for the summer months.
Pershore College of Horticulture, Avonbank, Pershore, Hereford & Worcester (0386 552443). Today

10am-noon. Members £3.50, non-members £7. Check availability with college.
• Feather search: Bird watching walk for all the family around woodland and water.
Meet Fishers Green Car Park, end of Stubbs Hall Lane, off the B194 Holyfield Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex, tomorrow 1.30pm.
• Cotth Valley Walk: Guided eight mile riverside and woodland walk from Edwinstead to Abergoirlech. Take packed lunch.
Meet Edwinstead picnic sites on the B4337, 1½ miles north of Talley, Gelli Aur country park, Wales, tomorrow. Further information from the warden (0558 668655).
• The Story of the English Countryside: Last in the series of lectures which show how most of lowland Britain is manmade. Today's topic is "the landscape today".

Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 55679). Thurs 10.30am-noon. Free.

NEXT WEEK

• RNS demonstrations: Tools, compost and rooting aids — Rosemoor Garden, Great Torrington, North Devon, Wed 11am. Booking essential: 0805 24067. Propagation of alpine plants — Wisley, Woking, Surrey, Wed 2-3.30pm. Further information: 0483 224234. Root cutting — Pershore College of Horticulture, Pershore, Hereford & Worcester, Wed 2-4pm. Further information: 0386 554609.

• St David's Day concert: The Cor Meibion Traiswyd — male voice choir — celebrates the national day of Wales. Bodewyddan Castle, Bodewyddan, Cwyd. Fri 7.30pm. Tickets £6. Bookings: 0745 584060.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Unmoved by the siren's luring cry

Why the toxic thrills of the city still outweigh the boredom of country living

AS I write this, men are digging up the pavement outside my house. Really I should be working on my stage play, but it's pretty difficult to explore the symbiotic relationship between a footballer and a journalist in four acts while a couple of masonry drills bang away six yards from the window. No wonder Shakespeare fled London for the rural delights of Stratford, where all he had to contend with was swans thundering down the Avon.

Is this my way to live? you think, as you struggle to get two under-fives on to a bulging Tube train. That is, if the station is open in the first place. Not that we live in constant fear, although after the bomb at Victoria I bet we were not the only parents whose half-term plans were rapidly redrawn: the Natural History Museum and supper at Joe Allen's turned into the local library and a visit to the nearest Burger King. The problem is the whole heap of inconvenience attached to living in a city, where too many people want to take too few trains, where the transport system snarls up in run-of-the-mill bad weather, where the air in summer is a toxic porridge of fumes and spores that hospitalise your children with asthma.

I hear the siren cry of the old rectory, the converted dairy, the sensitively restored country house set in acres of rolling countryside. So why do I not just get on with it and move out? Don't think I haven't tried. Not so long ago we



were lured by the prospect of a wonderful Georgian mansion on the river, complete with willow tree, ballroom, orchard, conservatory, all the things you would need to be a millionaire to own in London. We stayed overnight at a hotel in the nearest market town, in order to get to know the area. It was charming.

The problem was that after 24 hours I started to feel strangely jittery. I think it was because there was only one of everything — fashionable restaurant, wine bar selling antiques, secondhand bookshop run by local character, art gallery with cafe and hot and cold running Mozart. There was not the feeling of endless possibility that London gives, the notion that you might be lonely now, but tomorrow you could meet the person who will light up your life.

And besides, what would I do? If the glossy magazines about rural life are anything to go by, country residents have so few options for passing the time that they are reduced to scraping 20 layers of plasterwork off their ceilings to reveal the original cornicework beneath.

London life. First-shaking encounters with other motorists at roundabouts. The first crocuses, dusted with soot. The 8.24 cancelled again. Well, at least you've always got someone to talk to, even if it's only about how dire everything is.

JULIE WELCH

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

● Samuel Pepys anniversary tour: Includes Pepys's birthplace, his local church, St Bride's, an exhibition, lunch in a Fleet Street pub and a city walk to St Olave's, where Pepys is buried. Meet exit 3 Blackfriars Underground station, today 11.30am. Ticket £7, lunch not included. Details: 081-806 4325.

● International Swimming Pool and Fitness Exhibition: The latest designs in pool and spa technology. Alexandra Palace, London N22 (081-385 2121). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 10am-6pm. Adult £5, child £2.50.

● Bristol and west coast fair: People from around the country with more than 30 crafts. Bristol Exhibition Centre, Bristol, Avon. Today, tomorrow 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £2, accompanied child free.

● Jorvik finale: Festival closes with a Viking and Anglo-Saxon procession to the Eye of York 1.30pm, followed by the final combat at 2.30pm. Torchlit procession from Memorial Gardens to King's Staghorn 6.45pm for the boat-burning ceremony and fireworks at 7.15pm. York, today. Free.

● Spring Stampex: Annual exhibition for philatelists, with more than 130 dealers. Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Vincent Square, London SW1. Tues noon-7pm, Wed-Sat 10.30am-7pm, Sun 10.30am-6pm. First day admission £3, thereafter adult £1.50, child 50p.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Simply floored by kilims

Assets

Colourful, hard-wearing kilims are increasingly being used as floor coverings in the trend towards richness, texture and pattern rather than stark contrast. They offer a subtlety of design that makes a refreshing change from mass-produced carpets and rugs.

There are two selling exhibitions of kilims in London at present: Liberty is holding its first kilim sale and Graham & Green its tenth. Antonia Graham takes infinite care over her choice of kilims, drinking endless cups of apple tea while sifting through dealers' warehouses in Istanbul. "I look for kilims with character, generally between 30 and 50 years old. Many of the new ones have no life about them and the colours look dead. Anything over 100 years old is likely to be a collector's item in terms of price, and probably too delicate for everyday use."

"Kilims have to be a good size for British houses — from fireside rugs to room-size carpets. I try to buy them as close as possible to a square and a half in size, for example, 6ft x 9ft. Many are two squares, or 2½ squares, and are not a good shape for most homes in Britain."

"I never buy orange, purple or bright pinks and avoid rugs with too much gold thread. Warmer pinks and terracotta are good colours. The soft blues and greens are also decorative, without looking too ethnic. Floral designs are fashionable at the moment so we are buying more from western Turkey, and some from Romania and Bulgaria. Geometric designs are always popular."

"I also buy some that are sun-faded. These days, many kilims are made with a mixture of natural and chemical dyes and if the colours are too strong they are taken to the hills where shepherds lay them in the sun."

"Kilims make a good starting point for furnishing a room. They are more relaxing to live with than pile carpets, particularly if you work colours and furnishings around them. I put mine over ordinary underlayment to prevent them slipping on wood floors."

Prices at Graham & Green start at around £135 for a 3ft x 5ft fireside kilim. Larger kilims, 6ft x 9ft, can cost between £325 and £850, depending on quality and intricacy of design. A 10ft x 15ft version costs about £1,200. Ten-foot runners cost from £185 and make ideal floor-coverings in long,

narrow hallways. Kilim-covered stools, club fenders, cushions and chairs are also on sale, along with collectable objects found by Ms Graham on her travels — bone bottles, inlaid mirrors, gaudy combs and cotton scarves.

Liberty's carpet buyer, Ron Stewart, who has taken almost a year to assemble more than 350 kilims from Morocco, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia, Indonesia and Central and South America, says: "Technically, any rug that is a flatweave is a kilim. Many people do not realise that kilims are totally international; every country makes them." A number of antique Persian rugs, old Swedish flatweaves and even framed pieces of Coptic textiles are included in his exhibition.

Most of the kilims are about 30 to 50 years old and employ a combination of chemical and vegetable dyes, although many are old enough to have been dyed naturally, so the colours will fade over time to a pleasing softness.

"Quality as much as age dictates price," Mr Stewart says. You can pay £25 for a kilim cushion at the Liberty exhibition, or £10,000 for an antique Caucasian kilim, just over 9ft x 6ft, in immaculate condition. Saddle bags, horse covers, kilim-covered stools and sofas are also on sale, along with 50ft tent bands, once used as decorative draught excluders.

"My favourites are the kilims from the Turkoman no-mads and the Baluchi in Afghanistan, because I like their colours and designs. A kilim can be very fine or very old, but if it is purple and bright green it can only look horrible. It is pattern and colour that are important."

In the past 26 years, Mr Stewart has travelled to many obscure places to collect his wares. "When you reach the bazaars in small Iranian towns, word goes round in seconds that you are a buyer and everyone rushes over to show you what they've got."

He adds: "I can remember when poor quality kilims were used as packing material around bales of carpet. It is only over the past ten years that people have begun to appreciate their qualities and value. They like the fact that kilims were made to be used as well as to look decorative."

NICOLE SWENGLEY

● Graham & Green sale until Mar 16, 10 Elgin Crescent, W11 (071-727 4594). Liberty sale until Mar 14, Regent Street, W1 (071-734 1234).



Magic carpets: Antonia Graham surrounded by some of her "relaxing to live with" east European rugs

● Raymond Bernadot, 5 William Street, SW12 (071-235 3360). Stock of old and antique Turkish kilims, from £2,000.

● David Black Oriental Carpets, 98 Portland Road, W11 (071-727 2596). Turkish, Persian and Caucasian vegetable-dyed, old and antique kilims. Antique Thracian prayer kilim, 5ft 11in x 3ft 5in, £1,500. Naturally dyed Turkish kilims, £160-£700.

● Coats Oriental Carpets, 4 Kensington Church Walk, W8 (071-937 0853). Rare kilims from Turkey and the Caucasus. Most are more than 100 years old, with pre-synthetic dyes, and cost from £600 for a 6ft x 8ft rug in poor condition.

● Christopher Farr, 115 Regent's Park Road, NW1 (071-588 9584). New Turkish kilims cost from £99 for a 4ft x 2ft rug, rising to £1,950 for one measuring 10ft x 6ft. An antique Turkish kilim, 8ft x 4ft, dated about 1850, £5,000.

WHERE TO BUY

● Daphne Graham, 1 Elystan Street, SW3 (071-584 8724). Antique and decorative kilims, new floral kilims and kilim-covered furniture. Prices from £300 for a 30-year-old, 6ft x 8ft, Turkish kilim. Older rugs from Turkey and Persia: floral ones from Poland, Russia and Romania.

● Joan Graham Oriental Textiles, 10 Eccleston Street, SW1 (071-730 4370). Eclectic but specialist collection of flatweaves from Hungary, Sweden, Turkey, Palestine, Afghanistan and India. Kilims range from a vegetable-dyed Tartary Kazak kilim from Afghanistan, 4ft 6in x 2ft 6in, at £150 to a Turkish kilim, made by the Reyhanli nomads and dated about 1850, 12ft x 6ft, at £3,500.

● Alexander Juran & Co, 74 Bond Street, W1 (071-629 2550). Antique kilims from Turkey, eastern

Europe and the Middle East. A 18th century Turkish example, 8ft x 4ft, from £400.

● Kilim Furniture Company, 75 Mountgrove Road, N5 (071-359 2180). 10am-1pm Thurs, Fri, Sat, other times by appointment (061-444 8755). Kilim-covered stools from £150, armchairs from £150, three-seaters from £2,500, ottomans from £550. Also day beds. Turkish kilims available to re-cover furniture.

● Kilim House, 351-353 Fulham Road, SW6 (071-731 4512). Old kilims from Turkey, eastern Europe, Afghanistan, the Caucasus and Persia, and new kilims — some to the company's own designs — from Turkey and Romania. New, pictorial kilims from Egypt, good for children's rooms, cost about £40. Cushions from £20 and new Turkish kilims, 4ft x 6ft, from about £90. A similar-sized

old kilim from Turkey costs about £227. Cleaning services. The original outlet, Kilim Warehouse, is at 28a Piccadilly Street, SW12 (071-675 3122).

● Oriental Rug Gallery, 42 Verulam Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 41046). More than 300 kilims, including new ones from Turkey, old ones from Persia and unusual examples from Argentina and Guatemala. A Persian kilim, 12ft x 9ft, more than 60 years old, costs £1,400. A new Turkish kilim, 4ft x 3ft, from as little as £25.

● David Seyfried, 753 Fulham Road, SW6 (071-731 4232). Kilim-covered floor stools from about £385. Other kilim-covered furniture to order.

● Zaman, 192 Broadhurst Gardens, NW6 (071-624 4699). 11am-7pm Tues-Sat, other times by appointment (071-625 5102). Turkish kilims £100-£1,000. Accessory grain bags from £150.

Barbican comes of age

Does anybody feel like celebrating the residential estate's 21st birthday?

Why did Benazir Bhutto choose to spend her exiled years in the Barbican residential estate? Few places in the world could be more removed from Pakistan's beautiful Kashmir valley, despite the huge number of window boxes. One theory is that Ms Bhutto was trying to lose herself.

This month the estate celebrates its 21st birthday: 21 years too many, some may think, and certainly no reason for cork-popping. Nevertheless, the residents are rejoicing. Not only has Barbican come of age, they say, but it is now one of London's most fashionable quarters. Barbican's central location makes it an understandable weekday base for busy people.

But Marianne Watson-Smyth, the secretary of the heritage group Save, thinks Barbican "a hideous building." "I suppose the only way to avoid looking at it is to live in it," she says.

However, many public figures choose to live there, including John Smith, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dame Mary and Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, Arthur Scargill, Brian Redhead and Clive James.

"We are aiming to provide housing for the middle to higher income groups," David Arnies, the estate manager, says. "This is a very secure estate. Security is one of the main reasons why people choose to live here."

Special Branch, however, decided it was unable to offer sufficient protection to two of Barbican's most admiring residents. After the Brighton bombing in 1984, Norman and Margaret Tebbit were obliged to move out.

"He loved it here," says Mr Tebbit's personal assistant, Beryl Goldsmith, also a resident. She adds: "I live on the top floor of one of the houses and my rooms have high, domed ceilings. A friend came round the other day and said, 'Oh, but darling, it's like living in an igloo,' which was exceedingly unfair."

The Corporation of London, which owns and manages Barbican, had orig-

inally proposed a commercial and office development on the site. The idea of a residential estate grew from an open letter that Duncan Sandys, then the minister of housing, sent to the Lord Mayor of London in 1956. He rejected the corporation's proposal and suggested, instead, "the creation of a genuine residential neighbourhood incorporating schools, shops, open spaces and amenities, even if it means foregoing a more remunerative return on the land". The corporation approached the architect Chamberlin, Powell & Bon, and gave the go-ahead to its plan in 1959.

The project was hailed as enlightened and showing the influence of acclaimed architects such as Le Corbusier. "If the scheme for Barbican is ever realised," the *Architect's Journal* wrote in 1959, "it will undoubtedly be the pleasant place to live..."

Barbican was completed after 11 years of disputes and strikes. During its early years, crime rates were high and residents complained publicly about broken lifts, poor waste disposal and rent increases. Robert Cowan, the acting editor of the *Architect's Journal*, thinks the publication's initial optimism about Barbican has been vindicated. "The current popularity of the Barbican amongst its residents shows that there is nothing wrong with high-rise housing or large estates as long as they are well managed, properly maintained and the people live there by choice. The tragedy is that so few blocks and estates in Britain have met these criteria."

Today, as a result of the 1980 Housing Act, 1,300 of Barbican's 2,100 flats have been bought (initially they were rented on five, and then three-year leases), and 4,000 people live there.

An arts centre is an integral part of the estate (finding one's way about it is another matter), and a vast car park lurks underneath. For an annual fee of £5,940, parents can leave their children at a crèche all day. There is also Britain's largest health and fitness centre, with a £1,030



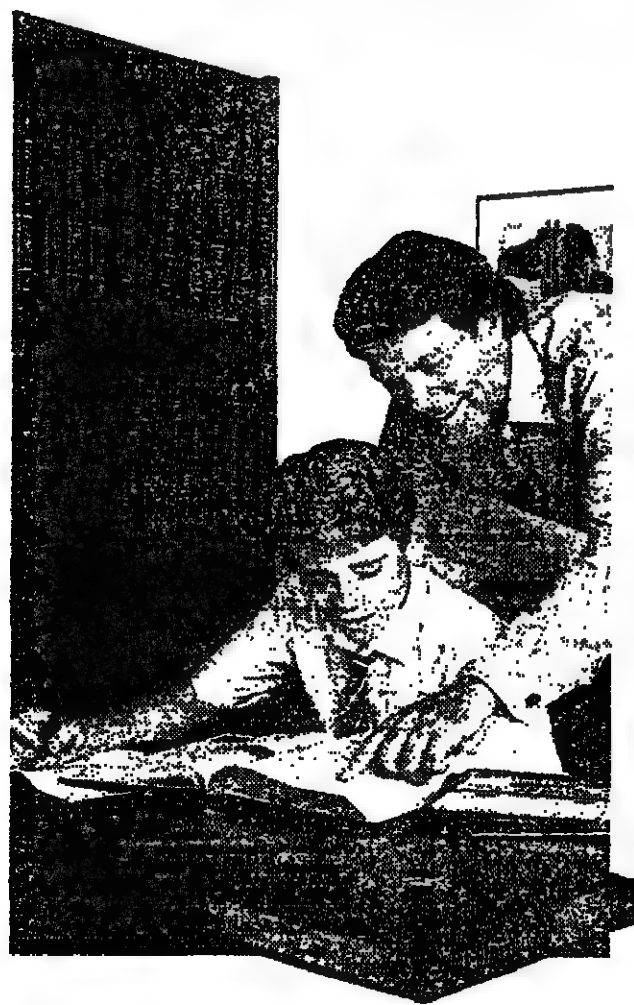
Tall story: Dame Mary Donaldson on her Barbican balcony

joining fee; the exclusive memberships are traded informally in the City. Most of Barbican's buildings are six-storey. The three tower blocks, each of which is more than 400ft high, are the most striking architectural features of the estate. One of them, the Shakespeare tower, is quoted in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the tallest residential building in Britain. In nine years it could become a listed building.

At the top of the towers are a number of penthouse suites, which cost up to £600,000. For this, residents (such as Bob Beckman, the stockmarket guru) get four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a main room and kitchen. At the other end of the scale, a bedsitter costs £82,000. Most of the flats are not spacious but they are comfort-

JON STOCK

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific information required.

Rocking around St Moritz

Sarah Jane
Checkland reports
on a booming
market in baubles,
bangles and banks

Rocks are all the rage in St Moritz this weekend, whether they are the sloping ones for rich skiers to slide down during the day, or the glittering baubles to hang round their necks at night.

Despite the Gulf war and its disastrous effect, for some, on travel, the *bona vivants* are there in force, and spent last Thursday's *open-air* time helping Christie's to achieve £3.9 million at its day-long dispersal of "Important Jewels", although current events and the absence of Middle Eastern buyers took the failure rate to 50 per cent. Sotheby's "Magnificent Jewels" sale, which includes a diamond and ruby cluster ring estimated at £1 million, will be held this evening. "There has been a lot of interest in the ring, but it is a lot of money," says Sotheby's jewellery director, David Bennett.

The auctions are part of an intriguing phenomenon whereby Switzerland, a non-member of the EC and Calvinistic to the hilt, has on its 700th anniversary, gained advantage over the rest of Europe in respect of jewellery.

As more speculative areas of the art market struggle during the recession, its most decadent manifestation has maintained a steady upward momentum over the last decade, interrupted only by a blip for diamonds in 1981.

Switzerland was first drawn into the art market in the late Sixties, on an initiative from London, its only previous connections having been to spawn such names as Le Corbusier, Giacometti and Paul Klee. Having secured the collection amassed by the late Nina Dyer, Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza's former wife, the then chairman of Christie's, Peter Chance, started casting about for countries in which he would avoid the formidable British import duty.

Two candidates emerged: Hong Kong and Switzerland. He chose the latter, setting up premises in one of the smart lakeside hotels. Since then, the success of the Swiss base has snowballed through the hotel district, with more than half the world records for jewellery prices being achieved there over the past five years. Top of a long



Tempting carats: the 11-sided, 101.84 carat diamond that fetched a world record price of \$6.523 million for Sotheby's in Geneva last November

list in glamorous sales was the Duchess of Windsor's collection at Sotheby's in April 1987.

"We import both the jewels and all our buyers and sellers," says Francois Curiel, the president of Christie's Europe. Although London still competes with the occasional antique item, such as the Agra diamond, which fetched \$4.07 million last June, the field is now dominated by New York and Geneva/St Moritz.

Simon de Pury, the head of Sotheby's Europe, is based there, and Mr Bennett joined him from London 18 months ago. Last month the company opened a fourth Swiss office, in Basel.

Christie's is also expanding, its latest plan being to appoint a new silver expert for Europe, based in Switzerland. The relative solidity of the jewellery market is the result of a combination of factors, starting with its portability and long-standing convenience as a refuge for floating money, and progressing to the tastes and social pressures on its buyers, often from Latin countries.

Switzerland, although Calvinistic to the hilt, has won advantage over the rest of Europe in the jewellery market

"Nowadays it's not just a matter of an old marchioness wearing a diamond tiara," M Curiel says, but keeping up with the "social circus". To be a member, you must have good furniture, ceramics, pictures and jewellery.

Clientele habitually travel with their jewellery, and insist on the genuine article, abhorring the brilliantly faked costume jewellery sported by lesser mortals. It was this group, along with some top European dealers, who paid most at Christie's on Thursday, concentrating on fine pieces by the biggest names, such as Harry Winston and Cartier. The straightforward investors from Japan, Korea and Hong Kong appear to have held back.

The advantages of Switzerland as the conduit for all this money (last year Sotheby's Swiss sales

totalled SF138,730,988, approximately £41 million) are legion. As well as being centrally placed, multilingual, and as efficient as clockwork (the much travelled Mr Bennett claims the airport with some of the longest holdups is Heathrow), Switzerland has the added attraction of neutrality — and favourable laws of title to the last person in a chain of buyers who has unwittingly bought stolen goods.

You can import anything you want, whether worth £10 or £10 million, whether cash or jewellery, by simply taking it through the airport and declaring it to Customs. The airport has a facility for depositing very high value items which does not exist in London. Duty is on weight (£15

per kilo) rather than value of the goods. The biggest draw, however, is the efficacy of the bank secrecy laws. Anybody can lodge their wealth, whether clean or not, with no questions asked. A reputed £500 million of the late President Marcos's ill-gotten fortune was deposited there, although last December a Swiss court broke the rule regarding personal numbered bank accounts by deciding that \$270 million (£142 million) of this could be returned to the Philippines.

Taking a long-term view, Eric Valdivia, the head of jewellery at Christie's, says there is apprehension about the potential damage caused by the Marcos incident on Switzerland's reputation as a financial haven.

Swiss banks may have already lost some of the world's "hot" money to "offshore" centres such as Luxembourg and Liechtenstein, and M Valdivia fears investors might start thinking of going to other countries.

"Switzerland should remain in everybody's mind as a place of discretion," he says.

Court sends the old statue home

Review

● **Homecoming:** A 12th century bronze statue of Sita Nataraja must return to its Indian temple, after a Court of Appeal ruling. Bumper Development Corporation of Canada bought the statue from a London dealer in 1982, whereupon the custodians of the Hindu temple claimed it, and won a High Court ruling. On appeal, the claimants denied that the temple was "little more than a pile of stones".

Strong impression: Sotheby's had an 89 per cent success rate with minor Impressionist paintings in New York. Christie's followed with 82 per cent in terms of value. Top price at Sotheby's was the \$297,000 (£150,647, mid-estimate) paid anonymously for *Vita Silente*, an unlikely work by Giorgio de Chirico, the metaphysical artist, showing fruit cast upon a table. At Sotheby's, a Far Eastern dealer paid \$103,555 (just below estimate) for *Le de Bréhat* by Bernard Buffet — a kitschy townscape painted in 1973. Sotheby's said there was "solid and reasonable" buying. Prices were lower than their equivalents last year.

Wrap up: A drawing of umbrellas by Christo, the artist who usually wraps up buildings, achieved top price at Christie's contemporary sale, also in New York, at \$159,500 (£80,507).

Prize draw: Old Master drawings had an 83 per cent success rate at Sotheby's in London, top price going to *Head of a Bearded Man*, by Guido Reni, at \$9,240 (estimate, up to \$4,000).

Inexpensive Spencer: Drawings by the eccentric Stanley Spencer are on offer for as little as £2,000 at the Bernard Jacobson Gallery, 14a Clifford Street, London W1 until March 2. The auction record for a Spencer painting may be £1.3 million, but his *Seduction Scenes*, crammed on to one sheet, are £7,000. His *Study for the Resurrection in the Tate* is £9,000.

Macintosh mix: A 42-piece cutlery set designed by Charles Rennie Macintosh, the Glasgow art nouveau architect, sold within estimate for £7,700 at Christie's decorative arts sale, but two densely hatched drawings of buildings by him failed to sell at £18,000 and £16,000.

Close shave: A Spanish barber's shaving bowl, once owned by a

Harley Street surgeon, sold for £330 (estimate £80) at Phillips.

Preview

● **Monday:** In 18th century Germany the pug became a Masonic recognition sign, and there are two 1740s Meissen examples in the Christie's ceramic sale, 10.30am: a large pair of porcelain model pugs, one sucking a puppy (up to £25,000), and a snuff box with pugs painted beneath the lid (up to £50,000).

Wednesday: Christie's offers a 500-plus lot of clocks, watches and barometers, 10.30am and 2.30pm. At 11am there are paintings and watercolours at Hampton's in Godalming. Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox has its "Indian painting for British patrons 1770 to 1860" show.

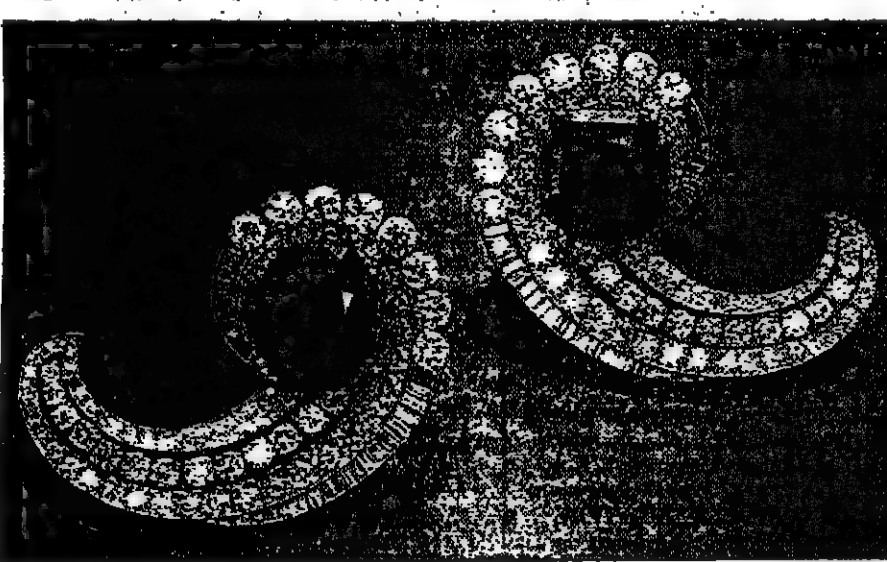
Thursday: Modern firsts and presentation books at Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 1pm. At Bonhams, 2pm, an armchair/library steps (up to £2,500), and a folding bed disguised as a George III bureau (up to £1,500). Also at 2pm, there is a skeleton (estimate £900) among the medical



lots at Christie's South Kensington, and a good 19th century domestic medicine chest (estimate £500).

Friday: There should be some reasonable prices, perhaps even bargains, at Christie's Old Master and British paintings sale.

● **Christie's, King Street, St James's, SW1 (071-839 9060).** **Hampton's, 93 High Street, Godalming, Surrey (0483 423567).** **Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 364 Hardwick Street EC1 (071-833 2636).** **Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-884 9161).** **Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox, 38 Bury Street, St James's, SW1 (071-930 6422).** **Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611).**



At Sotheby's tonight: Boucheron sapphire and diamond clips (estimate, up to £235,000)

Beware the chandelier's bid

Are buyers wasting money at auction, allowing their bids to be pushed up against non-existent competition?

The issue, topical in the present climate where buyers can be scarce, has been raised by Robin Simon, the editor of *Antique Magazine*, in relation to a purchase by English Heritage at Sotheby's British paintings sale last November. Mr Simon believes that a number of major works sold because, although there was only one bidder, the auctioneer gave the impression of active competition. The reserve, or cheapest price at which the vendor will sell, was, he says, "the most active bidder on several occasions".

He draws attention to the *View from the Cascade Terrace, Chiswick*, by the English artist George Lambert, with figures said to be by William Hogarth. Bought for £200,000 by English Heritage, it hangs at Chiswick House, London.

Mr Simon takes a swipe at the National Art Collections Fund (one of the contributors to the purchase), saying it alerted Sotheby's to English Heritage's interest in the painting by asking to inspect it at their premises.

Of the sale itself, he says: "English Heritage fought a brave battle with the chandelier when it might have been better to sit on its collective hands and wait to do a deal privately, at what should then have been a lower figure."

The issue has inspired a defensive tirade from Sir Hugh Legatt, the senior partner of the dealers Legatt Brothers, who carried out the bidding on behalf of English Heritage. "You cannot afford to sit on your hands when you have an object which could

be sold on last year's price. "But," he says, "if you are a public body with a responsibility to a house like Chiswick you cannot worry about saving small sums." The article, he feels, was not so much a criticism of English Heritage as of the secret reserve system.

"If the reserve were made public, it doesn't mean it's going to be sold for any less."

When asked whether there was an underbidder for the Lambert, a Sotheby's spokesman said: "We cannot reveal any details about underbidding."

Whether the Lambert was overpriced or not, the episode underlines the maxim, *caveat emptor*. Never assume that, if the bidding appears to be competitive, it is anything more than an illusion.

S.J.C.

the nature of auctions." However, current changes in New York law, instituted by its consumer affairs department, could require the auctioneer to state "I am now selling" as he passes the reserve.

Sir Peter Wakefield, the director of the National Art Collections Fund, says: "When one employs an experienced dealer one expects it to use its experience to know when to stop and when to go on."

Julius Bryant, the head of the museums division of English Heritage, accepts that Sotheby's valuation of £250,000 for the Lambert was

Overpriced Chiswick view? Signed by Lambert, but Hogarth is said to have painted the figures

JEWELLERY RECORDS

- Emerald, April 1987: Duchess of Windsor's emerald and diamond ring, £1.31 million; Sotheby's Geneva.
- Sapphire, February 1988: diamond ring containing superlative example, £1.5 million; Sotheby's St Moritz.
- Single natural pearl, May 1988: pearl and diamond pendant, £460,076; Christie's Geneva.
- Ruby, October 1988: ruby and diamond ring by Chaumet of Paris, £2.6 million; Sotheby's New York.
- Pink diamond, June 1990: Agra Diamond, £4.07 million; and a yellow diamond £2.2 million; Christie's London. Blue diamond, October 1990: rectangular-cut ring, £2.32 million; Christie's New York.
- Single stones, November 1990: 11-sided diamond, £6.523 million; Sotheby's, Geneva.

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Unless I'm mistaken, it's Preston

Lynne Truss on misplaced locations in
The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes; Shrinks,
Dispatches and the final episode of *Culloden*

Having been rather rude last week about the selection of Wendy Perriam's *Shrinks* as a suitable subject for a documentary, I realised belatedly that I should write to a few producers myself, suggesting a feature on my own fascinating little corner of southeast London. It could show me, for example, pointing out the more colourful locals from behind locked windows; or telling the story of how *Police 5* was once filmed outside the tube station. Later, I might be shown making a leisurely visit to the corner shop in the middle of the afternoon. Shots of me concealing a tear-gas canister in my coat-pocket could lead up to a scene of my breathless arrival on roller-skates, and an exchange of lively banter with the shopkeeper could encapsulate the quality of local life. "What crisps you got, then?" "Dunno. Except we got these new lavender-flavoured ones." "Oh, Right."

By rights, of course, we shouldn't need this documentary coverage because we should be featuring in Granada's *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (ITV). Southeast London is part of the Holmes legend almost as much as Baker Street. A hundred years ago, any innocent person crossing a main thoroughfare in the area stood a good chance of being knocked flat by a clippety-clop hackney carriage conveying Holmes and Watson at top speed towards Brixton or Dulwich. But do we feature in the telly series? We do not. Does the wonderful Jeremy Brett pace our streets? Alas, no. In this week's *"The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax"* even Conan Doyle's brief-but-exact reference to Kennington was hurtfully omitted. And the London scenes were filmed, in any case, in Liverpool and Preston.

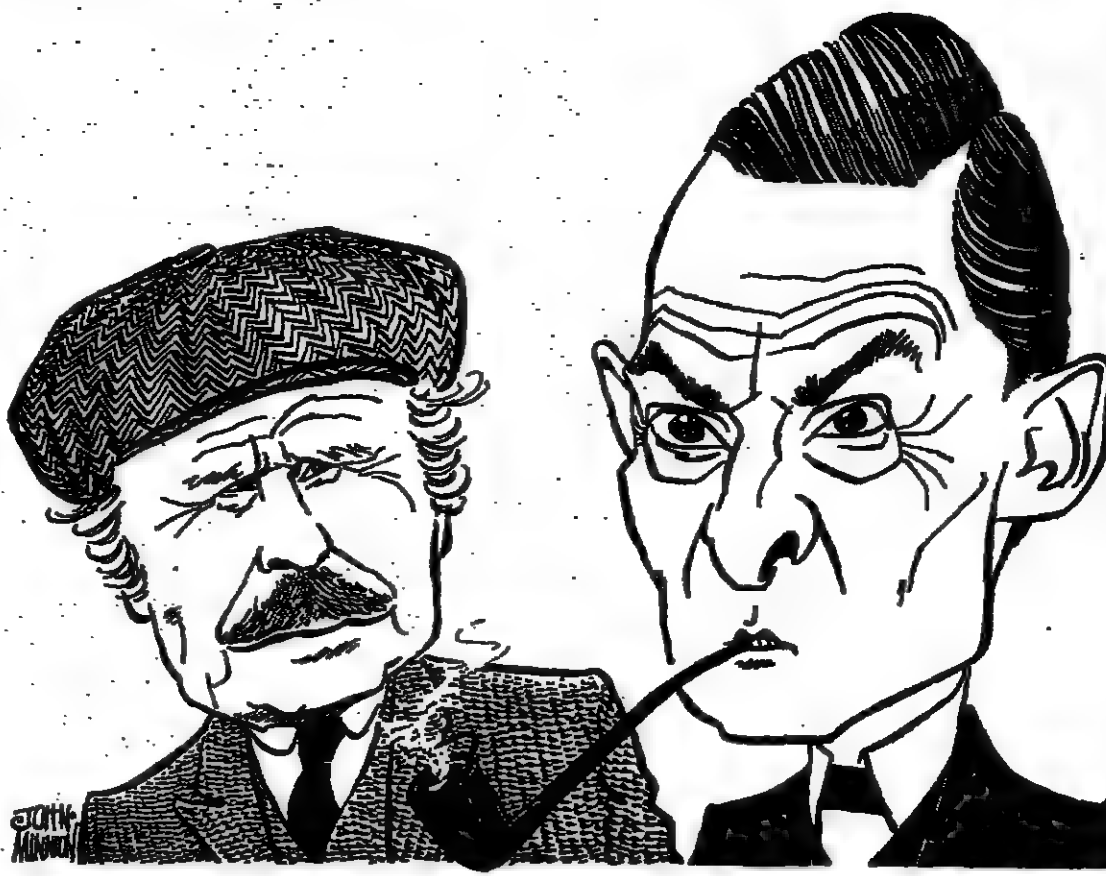
This has always struck me as the one false note in the Jeremy Brett *Sherlock Holmes*. Everything else is marvellous — the faithful dramatizations, the tasteful sepia hue, the

virtuoso violin theme-tune and, above all, the flamboyance of Jeremy Brett. The whole project was well-conceived and has been brilliantly executed. My only little quibble is that the location shooting is centred on Granada's home in Manchester, with the effect that when Sherlock Holmes takes a train out of Waterloo into the home counties, what he sees from his window is an incongruously treeless landscape divided by dry stone walls. Similarly, when we hear about a country house in Hampshire, what we see is a huge granite castle (sometimes with turrets) surrounded by moors.

But this, as I said, is a minor quibble. Jeremy Brett is a magnificent Sherlock Holmes. Not only does he grasp each "clue" as an entirely new vocal challenge, but he has banished forever the notion of Holmes as a brain on a stick. It is, of course, a great help that the Granada writers and producers have given him a refreshingly companionable relationship with his Watson (David Burke originally; now Edward Hardwicke). But what makes Brett's Holmes so special is a quality that is strangely easy to overlook — his superb physical performance, which is graceful and seductive. And the way those little smiles play on his lips — well, I can't go on.

There has been a good week for drama, notable for a preponderance of stark-white complexities. Sometimes the sickly pallor indicated a delicate constitution, as in Alan Bates' *102 Boulevard Hausmann* (BBC 2), in which Alan Bates' superb Froust was so white he was almost green. But sometimes the pallor meant something less subtle, along the lines of "Mad, by Jingo!" — as in Nigel Terry's shell-shocked puppy-slaughtering daddy in the relentlessly doomy *Orchid House* (Channel 4); or in the performance of John Lynch as the requisite violent loony in this week's *Shrinks* (Thames).

The trouble with *Shrinks* is that in order to create a constant stream



Edward Hardwicke and Jeremy Brett: companionable detective partners in *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*

of dramatic situations, it must make us accept that the people who consult psychiatrists are dangerous wife-beaters who deep-down wish to be found out and stopped. This is nonsense. Surely the vast majority of patients are people in the reverse condition: those who feel guilty without having done anything at all.

A added plot absurdity is that the psychopaths come along voluntarily and then refuse to talk. Still, one can understand how the artistic decision was made. Compare the line, "It's a slow process, but we will get there in the end" with "He's not saying, but I think he's a psychopath", and you can see why the wife-beaters idea came out the winner.

It is an interesting fact that *Sherlock Holmes* thought wife-beaters almost deserved to die. In *The Adventure of the Abbey Grange*

he investigated the murder of a violent husband, and was content to let the (male) perpetrator walk free, because "you acted under the most extreme provocation to which any man could be subjected". According to this week's shocking *Dispatches* (Channel 4), this sympathetic attitude is merely echoed by the courts of justice when it is the battered wife who does the killing. If a woman kills her husband, she is likely to receive a life sentence for murder. And if the woman has been battered for years, this fact is taken not as mitigation, but as an incriminating "motive". This double-bind reminded me of what Mae West said: "Every man I meet wants to protect me. I can't figure out what from."

Finally, *Culloden* (BBC 2) came to an end this week. This fly-on-the-wall series about a Tower Hamlets primary school has been highly compelling, much of the pleasure

deriving from watching headmaster Geoff govern his temper. I remember a nice understated caption that read: "For Geoff, this is the final straw", when he appeared to be on the verge of apoplexy. His method of dealing with children seemed to be well-meant and based on a great optimism about social contracts. "If we are nice to you," he reasoned, "why aren't you nice to us?"

Inspired by Geoff, I have tried to adopt this civilised strategy into my own life. "I do not run out of petrol when you are relying on me, do I?" I say to the car, in a measured tone. Or, "Let's just think about it," I say to the cats. "How would you like it if I pulled all the threads out of your arse?" If I were sick on your carpet? This experiment may not last long. I think I used to enjoy the shouting too much. And, in any case, it seems to be having no noticeable effect.

Triumph of strength reborn

Samson et Dalila
Covent Garden

THE sharpest dramatic moment came before the performance on Thursday night when Jeremy Isaacs marched onto the stage of the Royal Opera House, evidently with serious news to deliver. The audience, audibly sagging with disappointment, jumped to the conclusion that it would not after all be hearing José Carreras's return to the house after his recovery from leukaemia, but then lifted itself into a different sort of sadness when Isaacs revealed that what he had to say concerned the death of Dame Margot Fonteyn.

Carreras's decision to make his Covent Garden comeback as Samson was a spectacular act of bravado, this being one of the heaviest roles he might consider. His confidence was not misplaced. Right from his first entrance it was clear that his voice is in splendid shape, firm and true throughout the compass, and with all its old mellifluousness. Indeed, he appeared vocally stronger than ever, as plainly he was intending to do, though that did cause some problems of style and characterisation.

Carreras was particularly distinguished to offer any softness. Also, his understandable eagerness to present himself as fighting fit was rather at odds with the portrayal of suffering, so that his solo scene at the mill was too robustly healthy to convey the agonies of blindness and abasement. What we heard instead was pure, mature tone, rising to

high notes of a ringing, liquid quality that his artistry kept just this side of being vulgar. It was encouraging to hear him in such full power, claiming a triumph of strength reborn.

Opposite him as Dalila was Agnes Baltsa, whose vocal strengths are distinctly more debatable. The gap between her smoky chest-tone and her radiant head voice is now complete, seemingly unbridgeable by any effort of technique. As a result, only lines which he consistently low, such as the opening phrase of "Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix", have any chance of sounding other than disappointed. Moreover, this low register has acquired a barking edge that gets in the way of the sensuousness Baltsa used to wield. Only in the last act did the present condition of her voice begin to be useful and not deeply disturbing and disappointing.

Jonathan Summers as the High Priest had a few problems in achieving power and steadiness, especially in the first act. Mark Beasley sang the Ancient Hebrew's solo with calm dignity, and Roderick Earle was suitably bleak as Abimelech. The choral singing lacked focus and conviction, and misfired whether the attempt was at massive force or quietness. This was also a patchy orchestral performance under Jacques Delacôte, with many weak entries and stretches of dull attention.

The stage pictures, though, are as striking as ever, with Sir Sidney Nolan's totemic images lit by Robert Bryan, and with a swirl of dancers around the pulsating shaman in the finale scene's bacchanalia.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

DONALD COOPER



Show of renewed strength: José Carreras as Samson

Whizzpopping good fun

DONALD COOPER



Bottled magic: the Big Friendly Giant (Anthony Peckley) woots Sophie (Fiona Grogan)

The Big Friendly Giant
Wimbledon

AS MILLIONS of children know, Sophie looked out of her window one night to see a giant blowing dreams into the bedrooms of the houses opposite. Finding himself observed, he snatches Sophie from her bed and carries her off to his cave, where she finds he is a friendly old sort with a habit of getting his proverbs mixed. Very different, therefore, to the giant bloodbottler, who likes chewing English children, or his colleagues who

prefer young Swedes or (omitted in this stage version) the children of Baghdad. The threat posed to the world's offspring is averted when Sophie persuades the BFG to creep up on Buckingham Palace and blow a warning dream at the Queen. Her Majesty behaves in perfect character and, unlike the queens in every fairy story I can remember, sorts matters out to general satisfaction. David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl's splendid adventure solves the size problem by setting the tale as a birthday entertainment for a girl (Fiona Grogan, sometimes over-squeaky). Her school-friends guffaw about in the embarrassing manner most

actors affect when playing children, but after five minutes of this the adventure takes over, with the birthday girl's dad (Anthony Peckley) playing the BFG, peering into a doll's house and running away with the doll. Audience attention wanders during the talky bits in the cave but the special effects are excellently done, notably the bubbles floating downwards in the bottles of frobscottle. As every child remembers, these cause the opposite of burps, and Wood's production demonstrates these explosions to universal joy. Even HM, though decorously, is amused. The palace scenes are the tops. The giant's two-dimensional face wobbles feebly outside the royal window but for the ballroom breakfast he makes a full-size appearance in the form of a puppet the height of the stage, seated at a table supported on grandfather clocks. The sight of this creature nodding sagely, and of course whizzpopping above scuttling palace staff and the Queen (Mary-Anne Coburn, in full coronation clobber), shows that Wood still knows what to give the tots.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Ecstasy
Latchmere, Battersea

WHEN that melancholy ironist, Mike Leigh, calls a play *Ecstasy*, it is wise to take some tissues to the theatre. The characters are sure to be having an exceptionally doleful time. It should certainly be no surprise to find a heroine who spends her days at the till of a petrol station, staring across the forecourt at a brick wall, and her nights having desultory sex with sullen pick-ups. She is simply demonstrating her suitability for the leading part in a Leigh play with a very cheerful title.

Ecstasy first appeared in 1979, like all Leigh's work the product of improvisation during rehearsals. That would

seem to make the task of revival unusually hard. How can new actors recreate a play the original cast invented as well as embodied? Well, with talent they can. Every other rep has staged Leigh's *Abigail's Party*. The young performers who coyly call themselves the Dark Horse Company prove *Ecstasy*, too, well worth the odd showing in the nation's studio theatres.

Apart from anything else, the play is truthful enough to hold the attention while nothing very much is going on and on. A short first act, in which Jean's affair with a passing lost cad is violence, is followed by a long second one consisting only of her drinking marathon with three old chums. The conversation drifts. Everybody keeps reassessing each other what great times they have had in the past and are having now.

There is some singing. Tensions emerge, thanks to the drink, and, thanks to the drink, fail to become fully articulate. And that, more or less, is that.

No doubt Fiona Buffin's cast could find more pain and more useful humour in the play; but they produce enough of both to keep it interestingly alive. Sean Cranitch is a laughing Irishman with a hint of danger beneath the feckless bluster; Moira Buffin plays his scatty wife and Jonathan Lunn is a father whose fortune is eroding steadily at adversity; but the emotional centre is Isabel Lloyd's Jean, pinched, shy, and quietly, almost apologetically, in despair. She might have improvised the character herself. Certainly, she makes someone else's part her very own.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Davis tops the podium

ANDREW Davis has been named top conductor in the Royal Philharmonic Society/Charles Heidsieck music awards for 1990. Davis won the award for his work with Glyndebourne and the BBC.

Best large-scale ensemble was won by the English National Opera Orchestra, while the Lindsay Quartet took the small ensemble award. Paul Ruders and Harrison Birtwistle won composition awards; the opera award went to Opera North for *Barbe-Bleue*; best singer was Anne Sofie von Otter.

Jazz jitterbugs

AMERICAN jazz musicians are succumbing to fears over Gulf-related terrorism in Europe. The latest includes the 75-year-old Basie trumpeter Harry Edison, whose British tour was due to start this weekend. Novus star Marcus Roberts, who was to give a South Bank piano recital in April, has also pulled out. Rock musicians, too, are suffering Gulf jitters: first the Righteous Brothers called off their trip to Britain; then soul singer James Ingram cancelled his British tour, due to begin tomorrow.

Last chance...

HAVING been dismissed in the early phase of his career as an idiosyncratic artist outside the abstract mainstream, Howard Hodgkin now, at the age of 58, deserves to be ranked among the most outstanding painters of his generation. His reputation is substantiated by a large-scale retrospective at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh (031-556 8921), which ends tomorrow.

Sting emits a relaxed buzz

Sting
Beacon, New York

ON THE night the Grammys were dished out in Manhattan's Radio City, Sting was to be found just the other side of Central Park playing the last of a six-night residency at the 2,100-capacity Beacon Theatre, an early skirmish in a global campaign that is due to reach Britain in April.

The good news is that he has gathered an altogether leaner, tougher and more aggressively-minded group around him than the lavish, quasi-jazz showband that he carted around for the 13-month *Nothing Like The Sun* tour of 1987-88. But even this welcome change of emphasis was not enough to breathe life into some of the duller material which swears his disappointing new album *The Soul Cages*. The band could be characterised as Police Mk II plus keyboards. Argentinian guitarist Dominic Miller (ex-Proclaimers) revealed himself as a player of muscular finesse, while drummer Vinnie Colaiuta (ex-Frank Zappa, Jasi

Mitchell) cased a tight, dry snare and a variety of little splash cymbals in a style that was delightfully redolent of the great Stewart Copeland. Keyboard virtuoso David Sancious (ex-Bruce Springsteen) flexed out the sound with a majestic tone, and Sting, back playing the bass at last, lent a punchy edge to the ensemble with his economic staccato phrases.

The show was notable for its surprising choices of material. A fairly faithful recreation of Hendrix's "Purple Haze" and a cool, jazzed-up version of Bill Withers's "Ain't No Sunshine" juiced-up proceedings, but best of all was the way they tackled several chunks of the Police legacy. "Roxanne", "Bring on the Night", "Message in a Bottle" and "Every Breath You Take" were all rejigged, and belted out with energetic bravado.

Sting, dressed in figure-bugging black from top to toe, and in an evidently relaxed mood throughout, was in fine voice and seemed positively to be enjoying himself. Perhaps the weight of the world is beginning to shift from those slender shoulders at last.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Love followed and then sex — with their first sexual encounter punctuated by Phil pausing every two minutes and 50 seconds to restart Ronnie's record, which was playing in the background. Wendy Leigh on "Be My Baby", by Ronnie Spector — wife of Phil — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

- 7.10 Open University: Education** — Sign of the Times 7.35 Last of the Series
- 8.00 News** 8.15 Open University: Maths — Population Modelling
- 8.40 Playhouse** Children's programme (t)
- 9.00 News** 9.15 Comedy: Jolly. Graham Young travels to Milton Keynes to discover how the Holy Spirit operates there.
- 10.00 France Actualité** News on modern France (t). Wales: (to 12.30) See You Sunday 10.25 Mexico Vivo. The first of five programmes on Mexican Spanish 10.50 Step Up To Worship. Adult literacy series (t). (Ceebs) 11.15 A Way with Numbers. A guide to practical maths
- 11.40 Sazzer** Series on household hints and money-saving ideas (t)
- 12.05 See Hear** For the deaf and hard of hearing
- 12.30 Country File** John Craven presents a report on the state of Britain's countryside, which is suffering from erosion and pollution. Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather
- 1.00 News** followed by On the Record. Martha Kearney reports on the new mood in Irish politics after Mary Robinson's victory in the last presidential election. Could Fionna Fail abandon its claim to the North?
- 2.00 Eastenders** Omnibus edition (t). (Ceebs)
- 3.00 Film: The Horse Soldiers** (1959). John Ford's rousing civil war western with John Wayne as a Union cavalryman at odds with William Holden's pacifist doctor. Their debate is given spice by the appearance of a vivacious southern belle (Constance Talmadge). Look out for silent star Hoot Gibson and tennis champion Althea Gibson 4.55 Tom and Jerry (t)
- 5.05 The Clothes Show** The fashion programme looks at outfits for the second-time bride, plus choosing a register office.
- 5.30 Antiques Roadshow** from Vauxhall, Mells. (Ceebs)
- 5.15 OK 2 Talk Feelings** A look at the emotional implications of losing a baby. (Ceebs)
- 6.25 News** with Moira Stuart. Weather
- 6.40 Songs of Praise** from St Mary's Church, Andover, linking civilians with army families from Salisbury Plain
- 7.15 Brush Strokes** Karl Llewellyn as the Bessie Blyke had still looking for his perfect woman in a comedy series fast running out of steam. (Ceebs)
- 7.45 Lovejoy** Sugar and Spice. Stylish, tongue-in-cheek series featuring Ian McShane as the dodgy antiques dealer. Lovejoy is amazed when a teenage girl brings him exotic drawings to sell. But there is more to it than meets the eye, and it begins to look like a nasty case of blackmail. (Ceebs)
- 8.35 Butterflies** Carla Lane's perceptive comedy with Wendy Craig as the neglected housewife who dreams of a more romantic existence (t)
- 9.10 News** with Marilyn Lewis
- 9.35 That's Life!** Consumer affairs investigated
- 10.15 Mastermind** This week's specialist subjects are Formula 1 motor racing since 1950, Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Wagner and English Victorian architecture



At war on the home front: Penny Burrell and children (10.45pm)

- 10.45 Everyman: What Did You Do in the War Mum?**
 ● CHOICE: Describing herself as middle-class, middle-aged and middle of the road in politics, Penny Burrell is not the conventional idea of an agitator. But in the conflict in the Gulf loomed, Burrell, a single parent with five children, decided to leave her family and Somerset home to join a peace camp on the Saudi-Iraq border. Her eldest son, called in to look after the other children in her absence, thinks she was irresponsible. Another son thinks she was a bit mad. Villagers are offended by a "stop the war" banner put up on the side of the house. An absorbing film includes scenes of daily life in the camp, where much of the time was apparently spent in earnest discussion, and fly-on-the-wall footage of the children back home. Burrell concedes that she could have been naive and irresponsible but adds that "maybe someone has to be". The debate about what she achieved will go on
- 11.30 World Council of Churches Report** Mike Woodbridge reports on the religious news from Canberra, Australia. Wales 11.55 Welsh Liberal Democrat Conference
- 12.05am Mosaic** Programme looking at equal opportunities, or the lack of, in a multi-cultural society. Wales: 12.25 Squash 12.30 Mosaic
- 12.35 News** and weather. Ends at 12.50. Wales: 1.30 News and weather

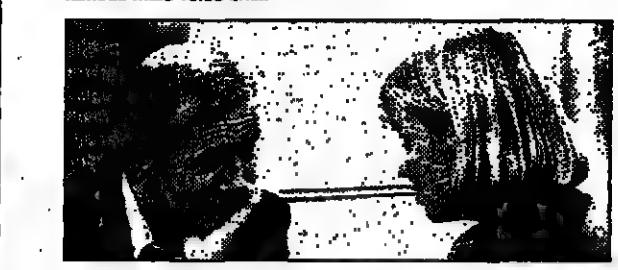
- 6.35 Open University**
 12.00 Regional Political Programmes. Wales: See Hear; Northern Ireland: Situations Vacant
- 12.30 Scrutiny** Health secretary William Waldegrave denies in an interview that he is a semi-detached member of the cabinet; the governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, is questioned on the Harrods bank enquiry; and there is a report on the investigation into Lord Young's role in the controversial Rover sale off
- 1.00 History: What is its Future?** An Open University programme exploring how history should be taught in schools
- 1.25 What The Papers Say Awards 1990** (t)
- 2.05 Bowls and Indoor Hockey** From the Guild Hall, Preston, Dougie Donnelly introduces the angles final of the Midland Bank world indoor bowls championships. The commentating team is David Rhye Jones, Jimmy Davidson, John Bell, David McGill and Mel Hughes. At the Aston Villa Leisure Centre Barry Davies and Ian Taylor are the commentators for the final of the European nations indoor hockey cup
- 5.00 Rugby Special Scotland** Chris Rea introduces highlights of the Pilkington cup quarter-final between Wales and Orrell. Wales: Pontypridd v Llanelli, Tandu v Ebbw Vale and Bridgend v Meirionnydd
- 5.05 The Celine James Interview** Celine James continues her series of interviews with leading writers from the arts, entertainment, science and industry by talking to playwright Caryl Phillips
- 6.35 The Money Programme: Handle With Care** Peter Jay introduces reports from the United States, Germany and Brazil examining the effects on western business of new American government initiatives to prevent the spread of technology which can be used to develop nuclear and chemical warfare
- 7.15 Choir of the Year** Two youth and four adult choirs sing their hearts out for the title of Sainsbury's Choir of the Year



Self-propelled into stardom: Arnold Schwarzenegger (6.05pm)

- 6.05 Naked Hollywood: The Actor and the Star**
 ● CHOICE: A series on "money, power and the movies" takes the pulse of Hollywood by devoting a programme each to stars, agents, writers, producers, studio heads and directors. Tonight's opener is about performers, with reference to two contrasting careers. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a questionable actor but a huge star. James Dean is an enigmatic actor whose stardom has eluded Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger deliberately set out to promote his career, doing the rounds of the media junkies and giving 100 interviews a day. Dean hated the Hollywood hype and tried to keep himself out of the newspapers. While Schwarzenegger is a millionaire, Dean went broke and made no films for five years. The more difficult question, which leads to a debate, is why a man with little more to offer than bulging biceps and an Austrian accent should have so caught the popular mood
- 8.55 How are the Kids?** Oca. A short film by Lino Brocka tells the story of exploited children in the Western Philippines who dive without oxygen masks and carrying instruments emitting ultrasound to frighten fish into nets. Many of these children become deaf or die. Hundreds of children, between the ages of seven and 15 live together for up to ten months at a time working in deplorable conditions. (Postponed from December 26)
- 9.10 Screen Two: A Private Life** (1989). A moving drama by Andrew Davies (of A Very Peculiar Practice) based on the true story of a South African couple, he white and she coloured, who fall in love but are forbidden to marry under the country's apartheid laws. There are splendid performances from Bill Firth and Jane Cillaire and sensitive direction from Francis George. (Ceebs)
- 10.40 Film: Twelve Angry Men** (1957, b/w). Classic thriller set in a sweltering New York jury room where the 12 good men and true must decide the fate of a Puerto Rican boy charged with murder. The evidence is stacked against him and only one of the jurors (Henry Fonda) has any doubts. The process by which Fonda tries to talk the others round has been described by the director, Sidney Lumet, as romance rather than documentary, but convincing or not it is compelling drama. Lumet, in his first film, clearly screws up the tension by making the room increasingly claustrophobic as the arguments proceed. A stellar supporting cast includes Lee J. Cobb, Ed Begley and E. G. Marshall
- 12.15am Snub** (t) 12.45 Rapido (t). Ends at 1.30

- 8.00 TV-am**
 7.30 Frost on Sunday with David Frost. The national newspapers are reviewed by Carol Thatcher and Anthony Howard
- 9.25 The Disney Club** With a celebrity hosting session, some incredible juggling and the debut of budding pop star MC Ingie
- 10.45 Umic American Mental Patients' Movement** The second part of a discussion between Kevin Mulhern and Selly Zimman, a former mental hospital patient
- 11.00 Morning Worship** from Epphorough power station in Selby
- 12.00 Encounter** A profile of Chirisa Lufkin, the leader of the Focolare Movement, which works for unity in the family, the workplace and throughout society
- 12.30 LWT News Weekend**
- 1.00 ITN News** with Carol Burnett. Weather
- 1.15 War in the Gulf** presented by Brian Walden and Donald MacComick
- 2.00 Snooker** The Pearl Assurance British open
- 2.30 The Match** Live coverage of the Rumboldts league cup semi-final, second leg, away between Leeds United and Manchester United at Elland Road in which Leeds start 1-2 down. Plus highlights of the other semi-final, Chelsea and Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge
- 5.05 Snooker** Further coverage of the Pearl Assurance British open
- 5.00 Bullseye** Darts and general knowledge competition
- 5.15 News** with Carol Burnett. Weather 5.35 ITN News and weather
- 6.40 Highway** Sir Henry Scoville visits Treorchy and meets the town's famous male voice choir



They talk: Richard O'Sullivan and Susan Pennington (7.10pm)

- 7.15 Trouble in Mind**
 ● CHOICE: It is amazing what gets into situation comedies these days, and at peak hours, too. Lord Rince-Mogg and his watchdogs should be alerted. Trouble in Mind is obsessed with babies, whether to have them, how to have them, how not to have them, the pill, the drip, the whole works. How the series can develop from here is anyone's guess. Meanwhile, we are introduced to a middle-aged couple, played by Richard O'Sullivan and Susan Pennington. He is a quiet and tediously nice psychiatrist, who, like most of the cast of Shitheads, sounds more in need of help than most of his patients. She is hoping to start a new career as a garden designer. There is a daughter who thinks she is pregnant and a patient of dad who wants to be and hopes dad will oblige. No wonder she is on the couch. Having got his characters into this mess, the writer Colin Boock-Little now gets them out of it
- 7.45 Murder She Wrote: Big Show of 1985** Angela Lansbury stars as Jessica Fletcher, solving a murder of 25 years ago
- 8.40 News** with Julia Somerville 8.55 LWT Weather
- 9.00 Aching Charles's Poet: The Theft of the Royal Ruby** David Suchet's meandering sleuth solves his first case to a certain extent. Involving an Egyptian prince, a stolen ruby and an antique dealer
- 10.00 Cool Head** Rubber-faced comedian Phil Cool offers another mixture of stand-up humour and impressions
- 10.30 The South Bank Show: Steve Martin**
 ● CHOICE: A profile of the American comedian follows the usual South Bank Show format of clips, interviews and a friendly chat between the subject and Melvyn Bragg. Martin is again in these occasional interviews but here he plays it straight, the wild and crazy guy doing his best to be serious about comedy. He has no theories to offer. He knows what he likes (Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy) but says his own work is intuitive: "I make it, I don't define it". His mum and dad reckon that performing was an antidote to natural shyness. We've heard that before. He could have become a philosophy lecturer but decided to be a stand-up comic. When others were using comedy to comment on the Vietnam war, Martin trained his audiences to political nonsense. He is best known now for his films and is a writer as well as an actor. His latest picture gets the obligatory plug
- 11.30 Snooker** Highlights from the Pearl Assurance British open
- 12.30am The TV Chat Show** (t)
- 1.30 New Music** Magazine programme for rock fans
- 2.30 Indy Car Racing** US motor sport action
- 3.30 Pick of the Week** This week's best television highlights
- 4.00 Special Squad** Action with the Australian undercover cops
- 5.00 Wanted: Dead or Alive** (b/w) starring Steve McQueen
- 5.30 ITN Morning News** Ends at 6.00

- 6.00 Trans World Sport** (t) 7.00 The Complete Siskier
- 7.30 Dr Snuggles** 8.00 The Bluffers 8.30 Bobobobs 9.00 Early Bird. Children's magazine series
- 9.25 Sangeet Anjali** Series focusing on Bengali classical, folk and popular music
- 10.00 A Week in Politics** — Second Reading. Includes a report on the first week of campaigning in the Ribbles Valley by-election
- 10.45 Damsel** Cartoon adventure about the mischievous young Damsel 11.00 Boom! Naturalist Jane Pardoe talks to gardener Jack Boyes about how to plan a wildlife pond (t) 11.30 Star Trek: Tony Statler faces some tough and probing questions
- 12.00 The Waltons** 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w) Cult series about The Seaview and its dangerous underwater missions
- 2.00 Film: Mildred Pierce** (1945, b/w). Joan Crawford in her Oscar-winning performance as a self-sacrificing mother in this magnificent Forties soap opera. Mildred is a woman who progresses from waitress to the owner of a restaurant chain and sacrifices everything on behalf of one of the most ungrateful and selfish daughters of all time. Although Crawford steals the show, Ann Blyth (also Oscar nominated), Jack Carson and Zachary Scott provide excellent support and the moody photography helps make this a melodrama out of the top drawer. Based on a novel by James M. Cain, The Postman Always Rings Twice, and directed by Michael Curtiz (Casablanca) Curtiz
- 4.05 The Specialist** (1986, b/w). Comedy short starring Bernard Miles as the country carpenter whose speciality is building outdoor lavatories. Directed by James Hill
- 4.30 Citizen 2000: Alexander and the Dragon** The latest report from the project following 20 British children of various social, ethnic and ethnic backgrounds until they reach 15 years old. This programme follows eight-year-old Alexander as he leaves his Scottish home to become a boarder at the Dragon School in Oxford. (Telewest)
- 5.00 Scottish Eye** A report whether there has been enough informed debate about the increased frequency of military training exercises in Scotland by British and Nato forces
- 6.30 Kersplatt** Continuing the off-beat look at the world of comics. Judy Pascoe and Kerry Shale take a look at the alternative comic subculture which thrived in the Sixties in America
- 5.45 Grim Tales** Rik Mayall narrates the tale of King Thrushbeard
- 8.00 Press Gang** The trials and tribulations of a group of young people running their own newspaper (t). (Telewest)
- 8.30 The Wonder Years** Emmy award-winning comedy about what it was like to be an adolescent in Sixties America
- 7.00 Channel Four News** and weather
- 8.00 Orchestral** Dudley Moore and Sir Georg Solti continue their entertaining introduction to the orchestra, considering the role of the conductor. Sir Georg provides his co-presenter with a crash course in how to conduct
- 8.30 The New Age** Kay Avila examines various facets of New Age thinking and turns her attention to the re-emergence of the more sacred and mystical view of our planet
- 9.00 The Mistle Show** The arts and media programme considers the new clutch of films from Hollywood which present more sympathetic images of American Indians and their culture. The programme traces the origins of this new found interest in native Americans and asks whether or not it represents a significant step forward. There is an interview with Kevin Costner, star and director of the Oscar-nominated film Dances with Wolves, and a look at the reaction of American Indian communities to the new representations



Living in a fantasy world: Jodie Foster and Rob Lowe (8.45pm)

- 8.45 Film: The Hotel New Hampshire** (1984) Rob Lowe, Jodie Foster and Paul McCrane star in the film adaptation of John Irving's black tale about an eccentric schoolmaster and his family who are obsessed with the fantasy of living in a hotel. Among the characters are a lesbian in a bear suit, a girl who talks for her nose and a blind man named Freud. Directed by Tony Richardson
- 11.50 Hello, Do You Hear Us?** First programme in a new series by Yvonne Podnieks's series looking at Soviet life. Podnieks returns to the Baltic states and Armenia's conflict with the Azarans and asks how much of a threat they pose to the forces of perestroika (t)
- 12.50am Settemila/The Blacksmith's Apprentice** Two animations from the Zagreb Studio. Ends at 1.15

- 11.15 Link** 11.30-12.00 Sunday Service 12.30pm-1.00 Jack Thompson Drive 3.00pm-3.30pm The New Age 4.00-5.00pm Sunday 12.30pm The New Age 1.00-1.30pm The New Age 2.00-2.30pm The New Age 3.00-3.30pm The New Age 4.00-4.30pm The New Age 5.00-5.30pm The New Age 6.00-6.30pm The New Age 7.00-7.30pm The New Age 8.00-8.30pm The New Age 9.00-9.30pm The New Age 10.00-10.30pm The New Age 11.00-11.30pm The New Age 12.00-12.30pm The New Age 1.00-1.30pm The New Age 2.00-2.30pm The New Age 3.00-3.30pm The New Age 4.00-4.30pm The New Age 5.00-5.30pm The New Age 6.00-6.30pm The New Age 7.00-7.30pm The New Age 8.00-8.30pm The New Age 9.00-9.30pm The New Age 10.00-10.30pm The New Age 11.00-11.30pm The New Age 12.00-12.30pm The New Age 1.00-1.30pm The New Age 2.00-2.30pm The New Age 3.00-3.30pm The New Age 4.00-4.30pm The New Age 5.00-5.30pm The New Age 6.00-6.30pm The New Age 7.00-7.30pm The New Age 8.00-8.30pm The New Age 9.00-9.30pm The New Age 10.00-10.30pm The New Age 11.00-11.30pm The New Age 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Allied battle plan for breaching Iraq's Maginot line

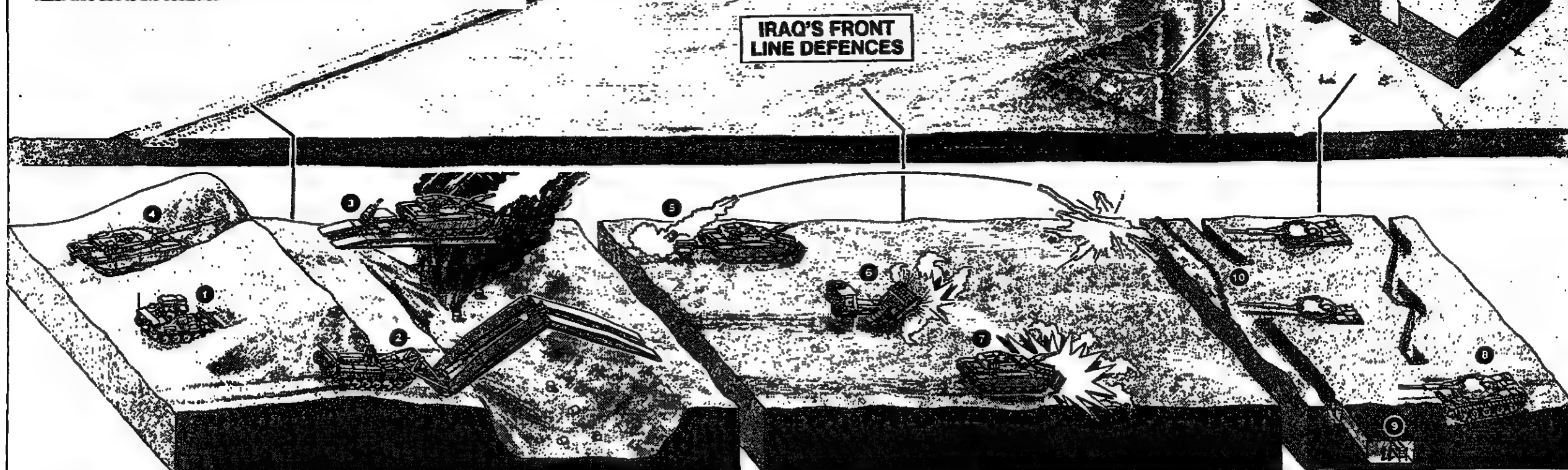
GEOFFREY SIMS/JOHN LAWSON

HOW THE GROUND ATTACK WILL START

BELOW LEFT: Allied combat engineers begin breaking through the 15ft high Iraqi sand 'berms'. Combat engineer tractors, such as the British (1) FV180 armoured earthmover, clear a path for the (2) Chieftain armoured bridge launcher of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, which can span the 60ft wide 20ft deep 'flame pit' trenches, followed by (3) mine-clearing Giant Vipers and (4) Challenger tanks.

BELOW CENTRE: (5) The Giant Viper, towed by a Centurion assault vehicle, fires a 600ft long explosive hose, blasting a passage 25ft wide by 600ft long through a 2,000ft minefield. (6) The Aardvark mine clearer with six rows of chain flails can clear a path up to 15ft wide. (7) The Pearson mine plough fitted to a Centurion assault vehicle has two separate ploughing units.

BELOW RIGHT: (8) Iraqi T82 and T55 tanks, well concealed with only their turrets, sometimes only their gun barrels, showing above the surface, wait for the allied advance across the 'obstacle belt'. (9) In bunkers at least 10ft down, some of them with concrete roofs, Iraqi soldiers also wait. (10) Trenches with razor wire add to the obstacles.



By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BREACHING the Iraqi Maginot line across southern Kuwait, with its layers of sand berms, oil-filled trenches, minefields, razor-wire and dug-in tank and artillery positions, presents the allies with one of their most dangerous challenges. A rapid surge through the obstacles is vital.

The Iraqis spent five months building the 15ft berms, laying the minefields and digging down beneath the sand in preparation for a defensive battle. However, after weeks of 24-hour-a-day bombing, the Maginot line

Speed the key to victory

began to lose its appearance of impenetrability. B52s and giant transport aircraft dropping large fuel-air explosive bombs began to carve swaths through the minefields and to destroy bunkers, berms and "hedgehogs", triangular structures "pricking" with tanks, machinegun posts, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank weapons.

Allied commanders know they have to break through the mines and other obstacles quickly, to avoid becoming

easy targets for Iraq's huge artillery arsenal. "We have to keep going forward," Lieutenant-Colonel Dana Robertson, commanding the 3rd US Armoured Division's engineering battalion, said recently. "We want to be through the minefield before the Iraqis can react."

The greatest fear is that the ground attack could become bogged down as the combat engineers attempt to cut a safe path through the minefields. Instead of thrusting whole

divisions across the 120 miles of Saudi border into Kuwait, the ground war will involve attacks at many different points, probably including an amphibious landing in north-eastern Kuwait and an armoured flanking manoeuvre into southern Iraq west of Kuwait to encircle the Iraqi forces.

To achieve tactical surprise, assaults by smaller allied units will be launched at certain sections of the Iraqi defences. But they will be mere diversions.

The mass of allied armour will gather for a big attack elsewhere.

The expected flanking movement to the west, involving Britain's 1st Armoured Division and the 7th US Corps attacking the Iraqis from the rear, will also be dangerous because an extended supply line will be required.

Co-ordination will be the key to allied success. US troops from the "All American" 82nd Airborne Division and the "Screaming Eagles" 101st Airborne Division are both expected to be dropped behind Iraqi lines.

New hearing on Birmingham Six

By CRAIG SETON

THE appeal of the Birmingham Six is to return to court for a further preliminary hearing on Monday, raising expectations that a new development is to be announced by the Director of Public Prosecutions on the credibility of police officers involved in the case.

The full hearing of the men's appeal has been set for March 4, but in the Court of Appeal earlier this week, Graham Boul, counsel for the

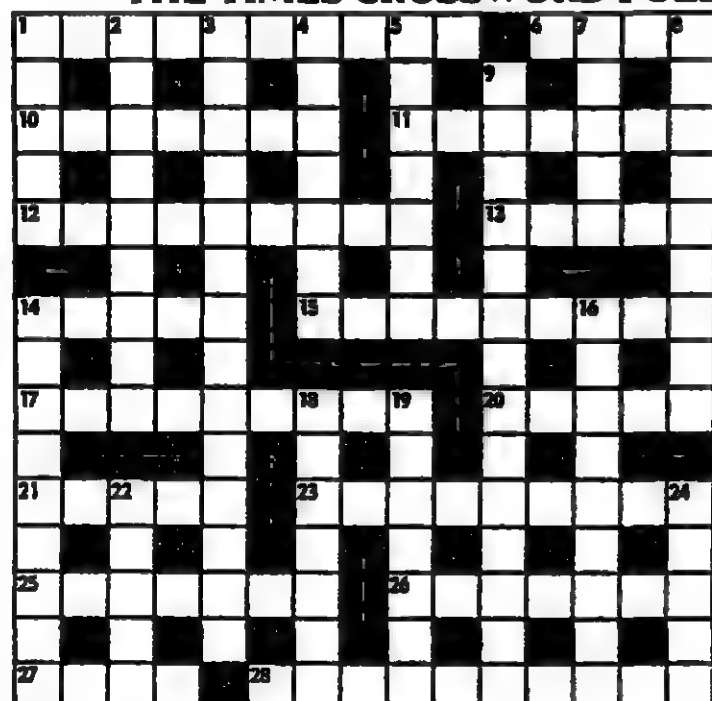
DPP, indicated that a further preliminary hearing would not be necessary if it was intended to rely on police evidence. Solicitors for the six men convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974 have been informed about Monday, but declined to elaborate on the reasons for the further session being called.

The Court of Appeal heard this week that John Evans, chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, who is leading a

new enquiry into the case, flew to Australia last week and conducted a 10-hour interview with retired Detective Superintendent George Reside, who headed the West Midlands police enquiry into the pub bombings.

If it is announced on Monday that the Crown will no longer rely on police evidence, it will be argued on behalf of the Six that the case against them is no longer sustainable.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,537



WORDWATCHING

By Philip Rowland

- GALLIARI**
a. Lively, vivacious
b. A fish basket
c. A stereos dealer
- ZIBET**
a. The Arabic word for a fish basket
b. A fish basket
c. A stereos dealer
- KALYPTRA**
a. A verb
b. A verb
c. A verb
- ESCLANDRE**
a. A castle wall
b. Notoriety
c. A scaling ladder

Answers on page 15

THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
West Surrey/Sussex	702
Dorset/Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	705
Berkshire/Bucks/Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Herts	707
Northamptonshire	708
Lincolnshire & East Angles	709
East Midlands	710
Leicestershire & Notts	711
Derbyshire & Cheshire	712
Yorkshire & Humberside	713
East of England	714
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	715
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	716
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	717
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	718
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	719
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	720
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	721
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	722
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	723
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	724
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	725
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	726
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	727
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	728
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	729
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	730

Weather is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0636 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (with N & S Cares)	732
M-ways/roads M4/M1	733
M-ways/roads M1/M25	734
M-ways/roads M25/M4	735
M25 London Circuit only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National roadworks	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Concise Crossword, page 15

- ACROSS**
- Self-taught chap used to work on car (10).
 - Pack in point-to-point (4).
 - True bit disguised in fulsome praise (7).
 - Do well to get round this machine (7).
 - One enlisting again has turned in (9).
 - Hole in the ground (5).
 - Club fail to declare (5).
 - Fast-food outlet? (6-3).
 - Organic strike that'll achieve aim unerringly (6-3).
 - Cheated out of a run - that's the buzz (5).
 - Distinctive attitude of the dissolute and fat (5).
 - Even a prig could be a passer-on of gossip (5-4).
 - Plant daggers in Capone's back (7).
 - Not hungry, but we went in and cooked (7).
 - Want quiet on Caribbean islands (4).
 - Seeks a ride with the gang - an agonising squash (10).
- DOWN**
- Excited by Italian wine - red, to start (5).
 - US academic session on neat chemical (9).
 - Despair seen here, hesitating over move in game (8,6).
 - Fanatic to be executed, that's certain (4-4).
 - Internationals stack on brown turner (7).
 - Look back along flare-path for some illumination (5).
 - Drudge has painting, perhaps, to mount (4-5).
 - Viola makes nothing, being unemployed (4-2-8).
 - Educationist meets a colleague of husband (3-6).
 - Treble hit scorers got wrong (9).
 - Monopolise the bath? Nonsense! (3-4).
 - West End price demanded in bar (7).
 - Philosopher dismisses English cricket (5).
 - Make over money to old wife after death (5).

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (with N & S Cares)	732
M-ways/roads M4/M1	733
M-ways/roads M1/M25	734
M-ways/roads M25/M4	735
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National roadworks	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Concise Crossword, page 15

Concise Crossword, page 15

Concise Crossword, page 15

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Concise Crossword, page 15

WEATHER

Much of England and Wales will have a cloudy, windy day with rain at times. Northern England should have some sunshine while southern parts should become drier later. Heavy rain is likely at times especially in the west. Northern Ireland and Scotland will have a mixture of sunshine and showers. Most parts will be mild but it will be windy with gales in many places. Outlook: windy with rain at times.

WINDY WEATHER

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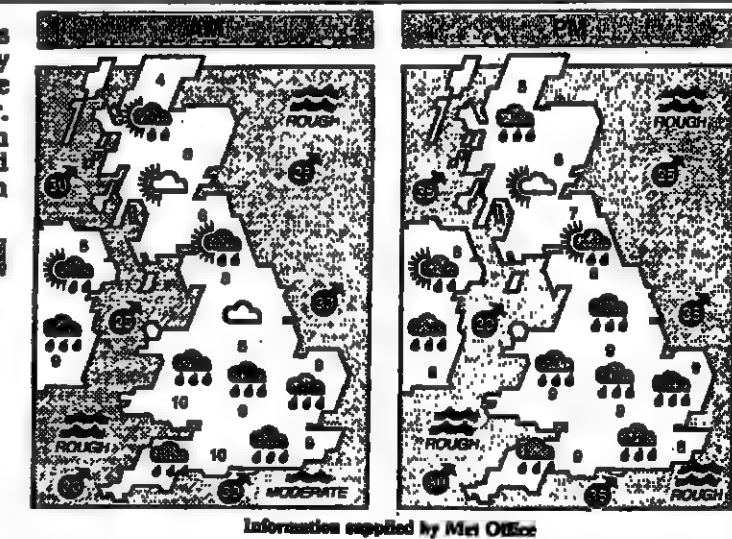
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RACING 28-29
ACCOUNTANCY RESULTS 31-33
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 34-38
WEEKEND MONEY 40-46

SPORT

SUMMARY

Boxing
clever

CHRIS Eubank, above, should be a contented man. But although his World Boxing Organisation title bout against Nigel Benn was probably one of the most exciting contests of last year, he is not recognised by any of the other three world boxing bodies.

Tonight, Eubank, who considers himself "simply the best" in the weight division, can take his case a little further when he makes his first defence against Dan Sherry, of Canada, at the Brighton Centre. Srikanth Sen, boxing correspondent, considers his chances. Page 26

SPONSORSHIP

Hard times

LAST year, sponsorship in sport was worth £223 million but now the recession is hitting hard. Companies are scrutinising their budgets and many are deciding either not to seek new sponsorships or declining to renew agreements. John Goodbody considers the effects of the cutbacks. Page 26

ROWING

River path



PENNY Chuter, above, the chief coach of the Amateur Rowing Association, has taken over the coaching of the Cambridge University Boat Race eight. She has replaced Mark Lees, who is suffering from the aftermath of pneumonia and is not expected out of hospital until next week. Chuter will coach Cambridge until next Friday, the day before the crew will race against Oxford University at the Reading Head of the River. The Boat Race takes place on March 30.

TENNIS

Swift points

STEFAN Edberg, the world No. 1, needed only 61 minutes yesterday to beat his fellow Swede, Magnus Gustafsson, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the semi-final of the tournament being played in Stuttgart. Page 26

RUGBY UNION

Familiar foe



THE pick of the Pilkington Cup quarter-finals to be played today is the meeting of Wasps and Orrell at Sudbury. The match brings Frank Clough, above, of Wasps, face to face with the club where he made his name. Page 28

RACING

Clue hunt

KEMPTON Park stages the day's best National Hunt racing with five graded contests on a programme headed by the £45,000-added Racing Post Handicap Chase. At Punchestown in Ireland, the Eddie Brennan Ltd National Trial promises to offer clues for the big race at Aintree in April. Both meetings are televised. Page 28

Dalglish departs disenchanted

By IAN ROSS

KENNY Dalglish yesterday resigned as the manager of Liverpool, to bring to an end an illustrious career in football which has spanned more than 21 years.

Dalglish, aged 39, said that he had taken what was an unexpected and surprising decision as a direct result of the increasing pressure that he felt at attempting to maintain Liverpool's record as the most successful club in the history of British football.

Ronnie Moran, Liverpool's senior coach, has been appointed as caretaker manager with immediate effect and will be in charge of first-team affairs for today's League game against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road.

In an emotional speech delivered at a hastily convened press conference at Anfield yesterday morning, Dalglish tried to explain the reasons behind his decision.

"Really, it is just that as a result of 20 years' active involvement in football at a high and successful level, Kenny Dalglish, as a person, has pushed himself to the limit," he said. "I have been in the frontline for 20 years and this is the first time I have made a decision which is more beneficial to Kenny Dalglish than to Liverpool Football Club."

"The biggest problem was the pressure I was putting myself under because of my desire to be successful. It was basically just the build-up to matches and the aftermath of matches that was the problem."

"It is a decision which maybe people will find difficult to understand but it would have been wrong if I had been trying to mislead people into believing that everything was fine with myself. It is just me as an individual who had a problem and the best way for me to solve that problem was to take this action."

Although Dalglish said that he had been seriously considering his future for some time, the timing of his announcement is nothing short of extraordinary. Liverpool are top of the first division and involved in a protracted FA Cup fifth-round tie against their neighbours, Everton. The clubs meet again in a second replay at Goodison Park on Wednesday.

"I just felt that I had gone far enough and I didn't think I could delay it any longer," Dalglish said. "I felt that if it was delayed it certainly would not have been beneficial to me and if it is not beneficial to me I do not see how it could be beneficial to the club."

"There is no animosity whatsoever between myself and the club. It is just something I felt was right. Although people might feel disappointed, I think I would have been more disappointed with myself if I had gone on until the end of the season knowing in my mind that I wasn't happy," he added.

Dalglish did not rule out the possibility of one day returning to the game he has graced with such dignity. "It is always a possibility but I would never do it without consulting this club first," he said.

In recent months, Dalglish has been linked with numerous jobs, including a possible return as manager to Celtic, where he started his career. It has also been suggested that he may be tempted

BORN: Glasgow, March 4, 1951. Wife: Marina. Children: Kelly, Paul, Lynsey, Lauren.

HONOURS: MBE, Freeman of Glasgow, footballer of the year (twice), PFA player of the year, manager of the year (three times).

PLAYING CAREER: Celtic: debut, as substitute, September 25, 1968; started a senior game for the first time, October 4, 1968; 324 senior appearances; 167 goals. Liverpool: joined, August 1977 for £400,000; 516 appearances; 173 goals. Scotland Under-22: 4 appearances; 3 goals. Scotland: full debut, November 10, 1971; 102 appearances (national record); 30 goals (equals national record).

HONOURS: Celtic As player: 1971-82 Scottish championship, Scottish Cup winners, Scottish League Cup runners-up. 1972-8: Scottish championship, Scottish Cup runners-up, Scottish League Cup runners-up. 1973-4: Scottish championship, Scottish Cup winners, Scottish League Cup runners-up. 1974-5: Scottish Cup winners, Scottish League Cup runners-up. 1975-6: Scottish League Cup winners. 1976-7: Scottish League Cup runners-up. 1977-8: Scottish League Cup runners-up.

Liverpool As player: 1977-8: European Cup winners, European Super Cup winners, League championship runners-up, League Cup runners-up. 1978-9: League championship, 1979-80: League championship, 1980-1: European Cup winners, League Cup winners, 1981-2: League championship, Msk Cup winners, 1982-3: League championship, Msk Cup winners, 1983-4: League championship, Msk Cup winners, European Cup winners, 1984-5: European Cup runners-up. As player-manager/manager: 1985-6: League championship, FA Cup winners, 1986-7: League championship runners-up, Littlewoods Cup runners-up, 1987-8: League championship, FA Cup runners-up, 1988-9: FA Cup winners, League championship runners-up, 1989-90: League championship.

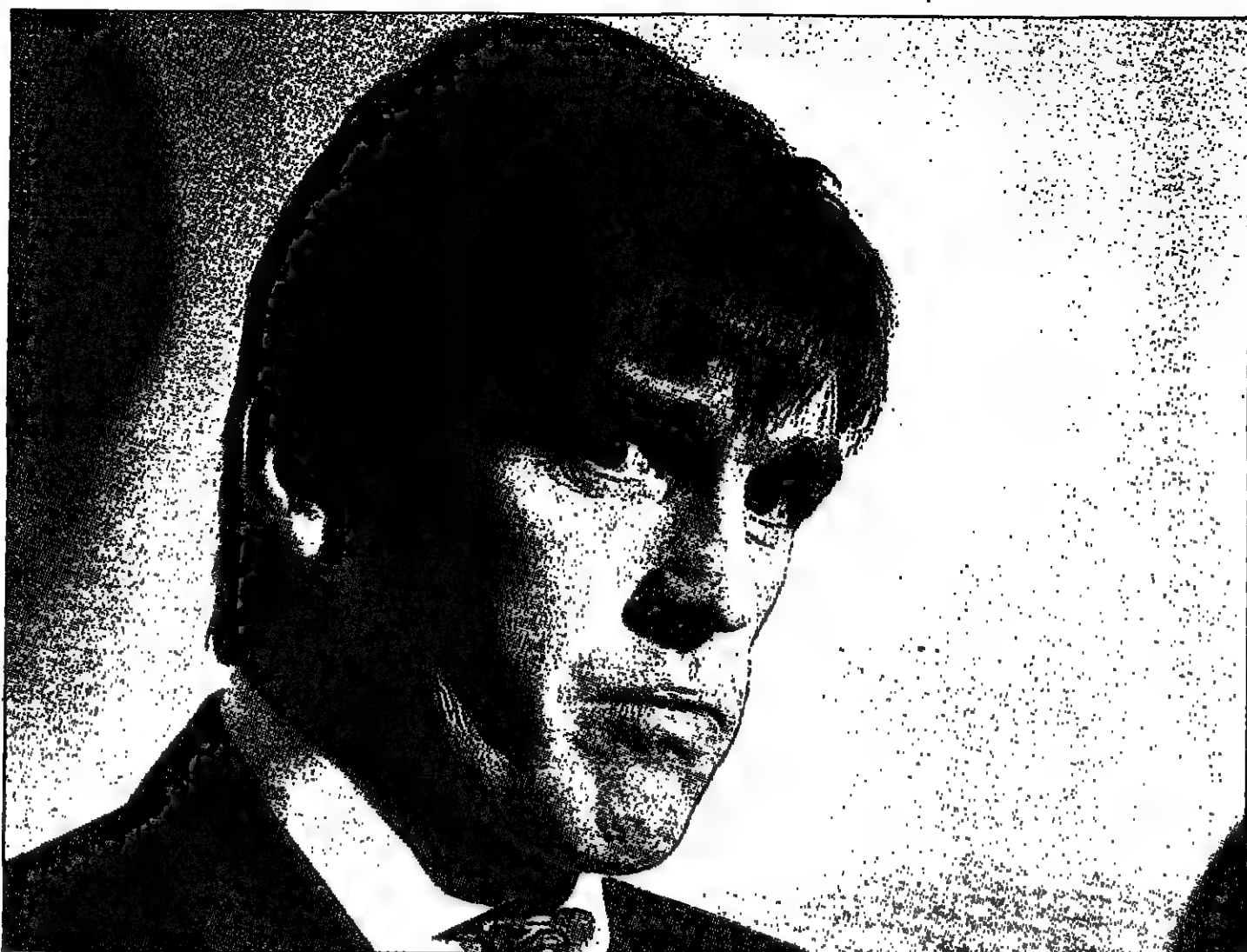
to move to the United States to help prepare the country's national team for the 1994 World Cup finals, which it is to host.

Dalglish's disenchantment with the inevitable demands of a high-profile career might have had its roots in the criticism levelled at him in recent weeks about team selection. His unwillingness to pick Peter Beardsley, the England international forward, who started a senior game for the first time in two months in Wednesday night's FA Cup fifth-round replay against Everton, was unpopular, not only with the Liverpool supporters but also with several experienced members of the club's senior squad.

Beardsley gave an impressive performance against Everton, scoring twice in a 4-4 draw, but it did not silence the critics as Dalglish would have hoped. Inevitably only to increase the sense of outrage that he had been overlooked for so long and for no discernible reason. Significant that Dalglish's self-confessed perfectionist, offered his resignation 24 hours after one of his most controversial decisions as manager had been exposed as an error of judgment.

Dalglish has numerous business interests outside of football and is involved in establishing a high-technology simulated golf centre in Southport, where he lives with his wife, Marina, and their four children.

Noel White, the chairman of Liverpool, said that Dalglish's resignation had been accepted



Unable to countenance any more pressure, Dalglish was led out of his press conference with sullen face and eyes filled with tears yesterday

Hansen emerges top
contender for crown

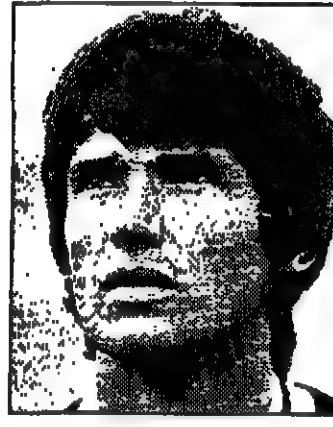
By IAN ROSS

ALAN Hansen emerged last night as the strongest contender to succeed Kenny Dalglish as the manager of Liverpool.

Hansen, aged 35, personable and articulate, is club captain, but he faces a premature end to his playing career because of persistent injury problems. He has made little secret of his desire to move into management, and it is thought likely that he will accept the formidable challenge of succeeding Dalglish, if he is invited to do so.

He enjoys support in the boardroom, the dressing-room and on the terraces, and his appointment would continue the Liverpool habit of promoting from within.

Since Bill Shankly was appointed as team manager in succession to Phil Taylor in December 1959, Liverpool have always chosen their manager from within their ranks. Bob Paisley, in 1974, and Joe Fagan, in 1983, moved up from senior coaching posts to manager. Fagan's resignation, just 24 hours before the Heysel Stadium tragedy in 1985, opened the way for Dalglish's



Hansen: eyes on management

appointment. And Ronnie Moran, the first-team coach, was named yesterday as caretaker manager.

Noel White, the Liverpool chairman, acknowledged the idea of keeping the job in the family when he said during the press conference yesterday that he hoped to follow the traditional, quiet pattern of events.

"We will consider all angles but the job will not be advertised," he said. "Very few people could do this job."

Moran's appointment as the caretaker manager was not wholly unexpected under the circumstances but at the age of 56 he is unlikely to seek a demanding job on a permanent basis.

Roy Evans, Moran's fellow coach and at 43 a younger man, is a possibility, but there is a strong lobby of support for Hansen. He

has not started a senior game so far this season because of a knee injury and, although he has publicly stated a wish to carry on playing, it seems probable that his lengthy playing career is at an end.

Hansen, one of the most elegant and constructive central defenders, joined Liverpool in April 1977 from Patrick Thistle, Liverpool, who were then managed by Paisley, paid £100,000 for him. After establishing himself in the first team, Hansen was an instrumental figure during a period of unparalleled success. He won three European Cup-Winners' Cup medals and playing in eight League championship-winning sides.

If Hansen was to be appointed, it is likely that he would call on Moran's vast knowledge to help him negotiate his first season as manager — in much the same way as Dalglish sought the guidance of Paisley during the 1985-6 season.

Another possible candidate from within Anfield is Phil Thompson, the former England international defender, who is Liverpool's reserve team coach.

If Liverpool decide to break with tradition and seek to employ someone from outside the club, the candidates would almost certainly include John Toshack, the general manager of Real Sociedad, of Spain, who spent eight years at Anfield in the 1970s, and Graeme Souness, the manager of Rangers, who was a key figure in the success of the 1980s.

Stuart Jones comment, page 26

Footballers may soon see lilac

THE continuing attempt to get football played by the rules, rather than by the universally accepted unwritten code (which permits certain kinds of illegality as many and others as properly result-conscious), is raising the level of inventiveness and debating skills within the game to ever dizzy heights. The latest suggestion is for the introduction of the lilac card. This notion, which appears to be football's equivalent to Monty Python's torture chamber ("Oh no! Not the comfy chair!") has been put forward by Lothar Matthäus, who captained West Germany to victory at the last World Cup, and who plays for Inter Milan.

Under Matthäus's scheme, the dreaded lilac card would be shown to players for a second yellow-card offence, if the offence was a piece of naughtiness, rather than utter wickedness deserving of the ultimate sanction. "There has to be a difference made between simply holding a player and a brutal tackle from behind," Matthäus said. He suggested further that a lilac-carded player should be banned for a single match, rather than two, as is the custom for a player who receives a red card.

My own view is that red cards should be automatic for any foul against a goalkeeper, but that goalkeepers themselves should be allowed to foul anybody they like with complete impunity. Certainly, I always played the game as if such a rule were in force.

Run for your life

Talking of dangerous sports, I would like to pass on an invitation for the Tel Aviv

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

marathon and half-marathon, which takes place on April 15. Last year, they had 12,000 runners; this year they hope for more. Those interested may call 071-434-3651.

Thrown out of joint

His story involves Maidstone United football club and their rejection of the world's greatest living male athlete, Maidstone United, without a ground, have drawn up plans and sought planning permission for a new ground — or rather, a major new sports complex. This is all frightfully exciting in a land short on up-to-date facilities for sport. The site is ideally placed — at least, it is if you are a motor-car — near the M20, and it includes an athletics track. The track is designed to take temporary seating, so that decent meetings could be held there. This is all good news for Kentish athletes, who tell me their nearest running track is actually in France.

The sports complex works on the principle of maximising space, and so the running track surrounds an artificial pitch, suitable for hockey and (after a fashion) football. This also sounds like a whizzy idea, but there is a slight snag. I mean, can you imagine throwing a hammer on an artificial pitch? It would bounce like a Barnes-Wallis bomb and end up in the crowd. Lord knows what would happen to a discus that got a good

bounce, but it would certainly recreate the days when the demon dinner-plate was used as a weapon. And as for the javelin — well, you cannot bung spears into a highly-priced plastic carpet, can you?

The world's greatest living male athlete is Steve Backley, the world record javelin thrower, voted male athlete of the year by the sport's world governing body. Backley is a man of Kent. Fauna Whitbread has recently moved to Rochester in Kent. The designers of the proposed sports complex say they are aware that throwing events cannot take place in the same place as the running track, but they could be held on a nearby training field. Throwers, people who are conditioned from birth to whinge about the lack of attention granted to their events, are unlikely to be impressed by this. Who would dare tell Fats?

One of cricket's great self-applauding jokes of recent years has been The Bunbury Tales. David English's stories, allegedly for children, about cricket-playing rabbits, who are readily identified with real cricketers. The latest cricketer to appear in the series is Gary Lineker, who, I hear, asked English if he might make an appearance as a bunny. Thus Bunbury has a new player called Bugs Buncker. Jolly good. The rabbit Buncker done great.

The hand of Toto

Toto Schillaci has caught an alleged bank-robber, and, it is scarcely necessary to add, it could only happen in Sicily. Schillaci, Italy's World Cup hero, and a Sicilian if ever there was one, was the man

behind the capture of Antonino Schellione, aged 57. Schellione, with five others, was allegedly involved in the robbing of a branch of the Bank of Sicily. The gang got away with a good deal, including all that was in the safe deposit boxes, which yielded goods worth £125,000.

Among this treasure trove was a 1,000 lire note, worth less than 50p as it stands, but worth untold fortunes for those who love Toto. For it bore the autograph of Schillaci himself, a prize for which any red-blooded Sicilian would happily sell his mother into slavery. Toto's bank-note had been placed in a safe deposit box by its proud owner on the day of the robbery. The depositor had even shown it to the man on guard. The note was later found on the person of Schellione, who was arrested. The boy Schillaci done justice.

A gulf of opinion

Readers with long memories may recall Marco Lokar, the Italian basketball player, who refused to wear a stars and stripes patch on his uniform in support of American troops in the Gulf. Lokar, who played for Seton Hall college, was booed every time he touched the ball when he played at Madison Square Garden at the start of this month.

Lokar has since been hounded out of the game and has returned to Italy. His last words in the land of the free were: "I give my support to all those people that are suffering and will suffer from this war. I am not questioning the men and women in the Persian Gulf. From a Christian standpoint, I cannot support any war."

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Swan-song of man who always walked alone

KENNY Dalglish, typically, had given no indication that he was agonising over his role as the manager of Liverpool. Even the club's officials were taken aback when, while the rest of the city was reflecting on the finest derby to be staged on Merseyside, he informed them of his intention to resign forthwith.

The timing of his decision is astounding. A fortnight short of his fortieth birthday, he was within sight of another landmark which would have made him the undisputed managerial champion. No one else has ever twice led a club to the double of the League championship and FA Cup.

He yearns for success and nothing would have given him greater professional pride than to close the season by adding the principal domestic trophies to Anfield's already overflooded collection of honours. So why has he chosen to turn his back on a potentially unique distinction?

Renowned for the economy of his words, he characteristically restricted his own explanation yesterday. He would discuss only that the action he had taken was prompted by the pressure that he himself had applied. The strain of



COMMENT
STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

maintaining Liverpool's lengthy dominance had become intolerable. The reason might bemuse fellow managers who have been either vainly pursuing prizes or financial security. They would claim that Dalglish, who won the double in 1985-86, his first season, and was within one game of repeating the feat in both 1988 and 1989, has been provided with all the benefits that he could want.

It can be no coincidence, though, that the same seat has been voluntarily vacated by all of Dalglish's predecessors in the modern era — Bill Shankly in 1974, Bob Paisley in 1983, and Joe Fagan in 1985. Being in charge of Liverpool may be regarded as the best job in football but evidently it takes its toll.

In spite of his calm demeanour

when stirred immaculately in a suit, the stress has been etched in Dalglish's face during matches. Never comfortable when confined in a dugout, he habitually feels compelled to leap to his feet to berate his players (or officials), offer tactical advice or demand additional effort.

Outside Anfield, the chant of "sit down, Dalglish, sit down Dalglish" has been as familiar as the customary tribute from the Kop. Whenever they sang his name, they lingered long on the final syllable as if they were 10,000 librarians requesting instant silence. He always reacted with a wave.

His response to the media has been deliberately less expansive. Representatives of some newspapers have been particularly aggrieved by his refusal to utter anything which could be converted

into a headline. His policy was understandable. He knew the dangers of "being missed or abused".

His allegiance was exclusively to "Liverpool Football Club" (never merely Liverpool) and he could not see why he should provide ammunition for people whose aim, he believed, might be less than honourable. "You watched the game," he was often heard to say. "Why not report what you saw?"

On only two notable occasions did he allow his inimitable mask of diplomacy to drop. When Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, was being interviewed in a corridor, Dalglish passed by, cradling his daughter in his arms, and suggested that the reporter might spend his time more productively talking to the infant.

His only other public outbursts were reserved for Lorton Town's wall-to-wall carpet at Kenilworth Road. He felt, justifiably, that an artificial surface produced an artificial game but his persistent complaints were eventually ridiculed. What is the difference between a Jumbo Jet and Dalglish? The jet stops whining over Luton.

It is ironic, therefore, that Liverpool should today be visiting, of all places, Luton but his opinion has since become commonplace. Although he resisted controversy and was perceived in some quarters to be cold and unemotional, he was seen in his genuine light through his conduct after the Hillsborough disaster.

The personification of warmth and dignity, he calmed the city of Liverpool in a manner which converted all of those who might have doubted his sincerity. During those dark weeks, his stature as a person reached the heights he touched as a player and a manager.

"Football is not a matter of life and death," Shankly, whose name adorns the gates guarding the main entrance at Anfield, said long ago. "It's more important than that." Dalglish, though no less passionate about the game or the club, recognised the emptiness of his predecessor's famous saying.

Feeling as though he had lost 95 members of his own family at Hillsborough, Dalglish spent his time supporting the supporters whose relatives and friends had suffered. When he looked at

Anfield, which had been transformed into a temporary shrine draped with red scarves and banners, he described it as "the saddest and most beautiful" sight he had ever seen.

On a personal note, his caring nature was illustrated last year. Having received from Liverpool many messages of condolence over the death of my father, Peter, the BBC radio commentator, my mother wrote to Dalglish and asked him to pass on her gratitude to all of those who had written.

He telephoned me early the next morning. "Would it be all right if I put her letter in the next club programme?" he said. Realising that the subsequent match was a match which would attract a comparatively low crowd, he rang back to recommend postponing publication until the Merseyside derby a fortnight later.

Behind the apparent gruff exterior beats the biggest of hearts. Yet, as a manager, he could be ruthless. His selection policy, which at times seemed bizarre, was not based on sentiment, as can be confirmed by Peter Beardsley, an England international who was picked on

Wednesday for the first time this year.

"Kenny Dalglish is a natural leader of the front line," Phil Neal, a former player and one of the contenders to take over, said. "His qualities of passion and determination he showed as a player are common to those who represent Liverpool and they are his qualities in management."

Dalglish may now reflect that he should have maintained the tradition of the Boot Room rather than going his own way.

Liverpool tend to guard their secrets but it is believed that Dalglish, instead of delegating duties to his assistants, preferred to shoulder the main burden of responsibility himself. That, in the end, would appear to have provoked him to decide that he could no longer cope with the demands.

In contrast to the traditional song which is raised before the start of every Liverpool game, he believed in walking alone. Now the club, which appointed him on the morning after the Heysel tragedy six years ago, is searching for its eighth manager since the war. And it may be an exaggeration to suggest that an era has ended.

BOXING

Eubank's chance to put case for world recognition

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

AS A world champion, Chris Eubank should be a contented man. But the Brighton middleweight is hurt because even though his World Boxing Organisation title bout against Nigel Benn was probably one of the most exciting contests of last year, he is not recognised by any of the other three world bodies.

Eubank, who considers himself "simply the best" in the division, tonight has his chance to take his case a little further when he makes his first defence, against Dan Sherry, of Canada, at the Brighton Centre.

If he beats the Canadian with a good performance, recognition should not be long in coming. For the challenger is managed by Sugar Ray Leonard and Mike Trainer, two of the most influential men in boxing, who will soon be pressing the three world bodies to give their man a top-ten ranking. "They only agreed to take me if I thought I could be world champion," Sherry said of Leonard and Trainer.

Sherry may have had only 17 contests but he could prove even more troublesome than Benn. Against Benn, Eubank's

problem was clear-cut. He knew that if he could survive Benn's initial onslaught his own power would be too much for the West Ham boxer. Eubank was certain he could stand up to anything Benn could throw at him because he has incredible mental strength.

In Sherry, he faces a better boxer than Benn. Thus Eubank may have to work harder than in the Benn bout to make the openings to land his big punch. Even though Sherry is lacking in professional experience, he has perhaps met more skilled opponents than Eubank, for he had a distinguished amateur career in which he faced Cubans, particularly the brilliant Angel Espinoza, in world competitions.

Sherry won a bronze medal in the World Cup, beating Jeff Harding, of Australia, and a gold in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. He has also defeated two exciting British boxers, Richie Woodall and Neville Brown.

Sherry's diffidence at press conferences should not be taken as a weakness. He is not adverse to a little rough-housing. *Ring Magazine* described

his bout with Anthony Daley as "six foul-filled rounds".

Trainer has high expectations of his man. "It's a tough one, for sure," he said. "But if Danny goes out and does what he's supposed to, it's going to be a terrific fight, he's got a terrific shot at winning."

However, Trainer admitted the chance may have come a little early. "In a perfect world we'd have waited a year. Eubank is good but he's not Michael Nunn. It is an opportunity we cannot pass up."

Sherry was floored by Darrell Flint in a Canadian championship bout but he got up and stopped Flint by decking him twice. Sherry puts that aberration down to over-confidence, but it is unlikely that he will have met anyone, apart from Espinoza, who can punch harder or more crisply than Eubank.

Sherry's chin may not be up to the sort of blows that destroyed Benn. A stoppage in the later rounds in Eubank's favour looks likely. Sherry may have to pick himself up off the floor once or twice before the referee steps in.

GOLF

Richardson fires into lead

PALS. Spain (Agencies) — Steve Richardson, who left himself a hard act to follow when he was second in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama in October, shot a superb eight-under-par 64 yesterday to take the halfway lead in the Girona Open here.

Richardson, aged 24, from Lee-on-Solent, just behind Russell Clayton in the 1990 Rookie of the Year race, is many people's tip for a place in the Ryder Cup team tomorrow. He showed why with a nine-birdie burst that swept him one

stroke ahead of Colin Montgomerie, of Scotland, with a 67, and the Spaniard, Jose Rivero, who also recorded a 64.

"That's the best I have ever gotten on tour," Richardson, a former English amateur champion, said after posting a two-round total of 135 — nine under. "The Ryder Cup is a long way off and I've just set myself the target of winning a tournament this season."

If it comes tomorrow it will be worth £41,660 — but a £2,000 bonus was denied him today.

SCORES FROM PALS

British or Irish winners, 71. 64. 128. C. Montgomerie, 65. 67. J. Rivero, 67. 68. 135. S. Richardson, 64. 67. 131. J. Woodall, 65. 67. 132. M. Trainer, 66. 68. 134. P. Beardsley, 67. 69. 136. J. Harding, 68. 70. 138. J. Espinoza, 69. 71. 140. J. Brown, 70. 72. 142. J. Flint, 71. 73. 144. J. Daley, 72. 74. 146. J. Sherry, 73. 75. 148. J. Woodall, 74. 76. 150. J. Brown, 75. 77. 152. J. Flint, 76. 78. 154. J. Daley, 77. 79. 156. J. Sherry, 78. 80. 158. J. Woodall, 79. 81. 160. J. Brown, 80. 82. 162. J. Flint, 81. 83. 164. J. Daley, 82. 84. 166. J. Sherry, 83. 85. 168. J. Woodall, 84. 86. 170. J. Brown, 85. 87. 172. J. Flint, 86. 88. 174. J. Daley, 87. 89. 176. J. Sherry, 88. 90. 178. J. Woodall, 89. 91. 180. J. Brown, 90. 92. 182. J. Flint, 91. 93. 184. J. Daley, 92. 94. 186. J. Sherry, 93. 95. 188. J. Woodall, 94. 96. 190. J. Brown, 95. 97. 192. J. Flint, 96. 98. 194. J. Daley, 97. 99. 196. J. Sherry, 98. 100. 198. J. Woodall, 99. 101. 200. J. Brown, 100. 102. 202. J. 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ATHLETICS

Passey forced to pass up chance of proving fitness

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ADRIAN Passey, one of the few British runners at the world cross-country championships last year, has been refused permission to run in the English National at Stoney Park, Luton, today. He thus misses a chance to show whether he is fit to be selected for this year's team.

While the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) says everything should be secondary to finding the best squad, the English Cross Country Union (ECCU) says there is nothing so important as its rules.

Passey popped up from nowhere last March to win the British trial and was his team's second finisher behind Richard Nurmari in the world championship. He had been planning to repeat the feat. But when the trial was cancelled because of snow, Passey's place went down the pan and the ECCU has pulled the plug.

He saw no need to enter the national cross-country in all seasons, but the snow stopped athletes from getting there. But Baldo, the national coach, wanted a new date on February 16, the United Kingdom cross-country season March 9. The BAAB, the final voice, wanted selection without trial and that is what the commission is stuck with when it meets tomorrow.

David Denton, the UK commission and ECCU chairman, denies that Passey and others are victims of in-fighting. "The secretary of the ECCU spoke to every member of the executive and, by an overwhelming majority, it was recommended that the rules stay as they are. We felt it might alter the rules badly. This is the reason. It was

not a fit of pique," he said. Passey is piqued, though. "I rang round most of the ECCU committee," he said. "I could not believe the stubbornness and short-sightedness I came up against. I think what has happened is that the ECCU have had their backs put up about the trial and have said 'This is our national'. You would have thought that, in a race of 2,000, an extra 15 runners would have made no difference."

Denton said that Passey would still be considered, if he is not, the team may be weaker as a result. The only way of knowing would have been to let him run today. The BAAB said last week, after overruling the commission, that the priority was to find the best team. That is not the first subject for discussion by the commission tomorrow.

The first item on the agenda will be considering a response to the BAAB. "Denton said, 'the national is the focal point of the season. Andy Bristow's decision not to run—he has done enough already for selection—eases only slightly the task of a successful defence by Nurmari, Paul Dugdale, Martin McLoughlin, Steve Binna, Colin Moore, Steve Tunstall and Chris Robinson are his most likely challengers."

The national is to cross-country what Wimbledon was to tennis in 1973 when the top players boycotted: more important for what it is than who is competing. Like Wimbledon then, those not competing today would form a stronger team than those who are. Eamon Martin, John Nuttall, Dave Clarke, Passey and Bristow are on the outside looking in.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Board talks on dates

THE 13-man executive board of the Commonwealth Games Federation will today discuss the problem of British athletes being unable to compete in the 1994 event because the European championships finish only four days before the Games begin in Victoria, Canada, on August 18 (John Goodbody writes).

David Dixon, secretary of the federation, said it was hoped that the matter would be solved

by the time of the federation's annual assembly in March/April. He said: "This is a very important issue and has far-reaching effects on the Games. We have had a useful meeting with British athletics officials and a lot of other people have to be consulted."

The absence of British athletes would be a blow because their races against the Kenyans would be considered the most attractive for television.

Bowlers set a seductive rhythm

PETER LOMAS



Bowling along: Ian Schaback, of Australia, on the way to victory over Tony Alcock and a place in the final of the world indoor championships at Preston yesterday

One summer afternoon in my university college gardens, I was asked to play a game of bowls.

I chose with panic whenever I am called on to perform a competitive sporting activity: in this I include the throwing and catching of a frisbee. What I love about sport is the fact that I do not play it. I am the consummate observer, who views, through a spotless but impenetrable window, all the consummate practitioners. It is a perfect relationship, a story of courtly love. I do not want to destroy the mystique of sport by half-briding the ineffable chasm between spectator and participant.

Also, let us be honest, I do not want to destroy my own mystique by revealing the Norman Wisdom-style inebriation that I bring to almost all sporting activity. I am at my most convincingly athletic when I am watching the air ricochet off a ball. I was at my worst when handling a bowl. Indeed, it was after the summer afternoon in the college gardens that I formulated my theory of the impenetrable window and the ineffable chasm.

Smoking the while, like David Bryant, I stood at one end of the lawn and took aim. I had no notion that the bowl would do other than tumble tamely out of my hand and amble amiably along the grass toward some foreseeable future. Not so. The bowl lobbed itself into the air, ricocheted off a tail of turf and began a series of eccentric, stuttering bounces toward a rose bush that was at that time being nurtured by a solicitous gardener.

Obediently, the bowl rolled to his feet. He picked it up and examined it like a slow-minded cartoon character who has not seen that the round black thing he is holding is attached to a trail of dynamite. I disappeared in a cloud of smoke. To this day, that gardener does not know who bowled that bowl.



I do not believe that it was necessary to roll my rose-bush bowl in order to appreciate the skill evinced by the proper bowler. At Preston Guild Hall this week, nevertheless, I judged by their quietly knowledgeable comments ("Clever wood, that") that most of the Preston audience were probably bowlers.

I also judged that most of them were over 60, indeed that with the exception of about two people, I was the youngest person there; this made me feel rather dangerous and supercharged, the sort of rebellious free spirit who might just disrupt a game of bowls if possessed by the unstoppable desire to do so.

But it was not just that being there had turned me into a character invented by Jean-Luc Godard: no, I loved the bowls. It is slow, but it is rhythmic and continuous (when slow is in sport is unbearable when it consists of a lot of stopping and starting).

Incisive analysis on my part informed me that what makes bowls so watchable are the seconds of suspense that come after the bowl has curved its course, when it is deciding where to settle. Those moments are tentative and tantalising. They make of slow a virtue.

At other times, bowls is so very rhythmic and continuous that it becomes like watching waves breaking. One drifts off. The members of the audience were never all awake at one time; and the women in front of me spent some minutes far more engaged with unwrapping and breaking up a bar of chocolate in discreet silence (scrabbling with the silver paper during bursts of applause) than with any bowling activity.

The pleasures of the sport are modest, but they are wholehearted: the quiet intensity with which one breathes in a rhythm with the roll of a bowl, sometimes exhalant as appreciative gasp at especial accuracy; the audience collectively bathes, calmly turning on the hot tap at crisis moments, absorbing the rush of heat then comfortably retreating to the sportsmanship of the bowlers, who will applaud each other's better shots.

In fact, what you see on television is what you get. Bowls is the most televisual of sports and both atmosphere and action translate perfectly.

There are no trappings, no hype. Everything is absolutely straightforward. Tony Alcock has never threatened to kill David Bryant because he threw him an arrogant look as he ran past him on the green; nor has he ever accused him of lacking respect for his bowling.

The charm of the sport is that the atmosphere at this big tournament is very similar to that at any bowls club: unpretentious, good-humoured, essentially relaxed, with the necessary competitive tautening emanating only from the heightened sharpness of the skills, not from any sense that this was an Event.

Spectators have constantly to be told, by the media, that the sporting competition which they are attending is not merely an event but an Event, and then they behave accordingly, with self-conscious excitement.

Myself notwithstanding, a bowls crowd tends to be a crowd of players and I cannot imagine that they would want broken the bonds of good sportsmanship which link all levels of the game. Unless, of course, a different type of person were to take up bowls. What it needs is for Schuback to endorse the white shoes.

BOWLS

Schuback retains his poise

By DAVID REYS JONES

IT WAS far from the green and gold as, bordered appropriately by a display of yellow chrysanthemums and green foliage, Ian Schuback, of Australia, notched a good win over Tony Alcock, the pride of England, at the Preston Guild Hall, as booked a place in the final of the midland bank world indoor singles championship for the second year running.

Schuback, formerly a professional tennis coach but now the secretary-manager of a bowls club in Sydney, appeared more at home than Alcock, who is supposed to know every fibre of the portable rink.

Normally the most serene of players, Alcock was perceptibly rattled as Schuback took the first two sets; his head shook with disbelief and he winced. Three times he called out in desperation as his wood went down the rink. "All of them!" "The jack!" "Not the guy!"

He had reason to groan on the last end of the first set when he tipped a jack-high Australian bowl behind the jack, rested it with his chin and took a look out of the count, and widened the head so much with his final delivery that Schuback could easily draw the set winner.

It was in the third end of the third set that Alcock was first observed to smile. By then, he had taken hold of his game and was already 4-0 up in the set, and was a precision trail for two shots that lifted his spirits.

Suddenly, Alcock scored 14 shots without reply, winning the third and fourth sets, but just as he was regaining his composure, the rub of the green went against him again.

Schuback took his chances with alacrity.

RESULTS: Singles: Semi-final: Schuback (Aus) 14-1 Alcock (Eng) 7-5, 7-5, 7-5, 7-5, 7-5. Final: Schuback (Aus) 14-1 Alcock (Eng) 7-5, 7-5, 7-5, 7-5, 7-5.

MOTOR RALLYING

Sponsor has new cause

ROTHMANS is making a return to British rallying as the sponsor of Colin McRae and his turbo-charged Subaru Legacy car. It was announced yesterday (Stephen Slater writes).

A world-wide supporter of the sport for many years, Rothmans' rallying programme was centred on Colin's father, Jimmy McRae, who contested the RAC Open championship in 1985 at the wheel of his Metro 624. This weekend, Colin, aged 22, heads the field in the opening round of the 1991 series, the Telford International rally, which starts from York this morning.

FOOTBALL

3.00 unless stated

League

First division

Arsenal v Crystal Palace

Coventry v Sunderland

Derby County v Norwich

Everton v Sheffield Wed

Luton v Liverpool

Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa

QPR v Southampton

Wimbledon v Tottenham

Second division

Bristol City v Oxford

Charlton v Middlesbrough

Leeds v Hull

Leeds v Barnsley

Leeds v Wolves

Plymouth v Brighton

Port Vale v Bristol Rovers

Portsmouth v Swindon

Wendford v Oldham

West Bromwich v Notts County

Third division

Birmingham v Chester

Bury v Brentford

Cambridge v Huddersfield

Exeter v Leyton Orient

Fulham v Southend

Grimsby v Tranmere

Preston v Bradford

Reading v Bolton

Rotherham v Bournemouth

Swansea v Mansfield

Wigan v Stoke

Fourth division

Aldershot v Blackpool

Burnley v Walsall

Chesham v Cardiff

Harrogate v Darlington

Hartford v Maidstone

Lincoln v Stockport

Northwich v Southport

Wrexham v Northampton

York v Carlisle

Sam Vaulthall Conference

Garnet v Yeovil

Macclesfield v Boston

Merthyr v Stafford Rangers

Sutton United v Rushden

Telford v Rotherham

Tenants Scottish Cup

Any time round

Dundee v Kilmarnock (2.00)

Dundee United v Dundee

Motherwell v Falkirk

Rangers v Celtic

St Johnstone v Clyde

B and Q Scottish League

Premier division

Dunfermline v Hearts

Forfar v Clyde

Partick v Raith R

Second division

Albion R v East Fife

Arbroath v Berwick

East Stirling v Alloa

Queen of South v Stranraer

Stirling Albion v Forfar

Stirling Albion v Queen's Park

FA Trophy: Third round

Whitby v Enfield; Norwich v

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Tighter rules on BES schemes

PROMOTERS of assured tenancy business expansion schemes (BES) will not be allowed to describe the return on investments in these schemes as guaranteed unless the guarantee is legally enforceable, the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation (Imro) said.

The organisation said: "It is not appropriate to describe a prospective investment return as guaranteed where none of the entities participating in the relevant arrangement is contractually bound to provide that return to investors."

"The term 'guaranteed' may be used in relation to such schemes only if there is a legally enforceable arrangement with a third party who undertakes to meet an investor's claim if the terms of the participating institutions' commitments are not achieved."

Imro has issued BES scheme promoters from forecasting the value of underlying property investments or giving rates of return in percentages.

Greenwich buys minority

Greenwich Resources, the natural resources group and one of *The Times* five mining shares of the year, is compulsorily buying the outstanding 2.65 per cent of Australian mining company United Goldfields Corporation that it does not already own. The consideration is Aus\$1.58 a share, or three shares in Greenwich. A total cash payment would cost £183,074.

Sintrom approach

Sintrom, the electrical company whose shares rose 4p on Thursday and a further 7p to 30p yesterday, said it had received an approach, but it was too early to predict the outcome of talks that might lead to an offer.

Business Editor John Bell

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9460 (-0.0120)
German mark 2.9258 (+0.0064)
Exchange index 94.4 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1846.7 (+2.1)
FT-SE 100 2314.3 (+1.9)
New York Dow Jones 2914.1 (+22.28)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25802.81 (-121.56)
Closing Prices ... Page 39

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER
Domestic 245p (+18p)
Gold Greenleaf 99 1/2p (+8p)
News Corp 312 1/2p (+8p)
Rascal Telecom 82 1/2p (+10p)
J Smurfit 82 1/2p (+18p)
Whitbread 'A' 48 1/2p (+8p)
M J Giesse 60 1/2p (+17p)
Shandwick 56 1/2p (+8p)
Royal 44 1/2p (+12p)
Sells 47 1/2p (+15p)
T J Wiles 42 1/2p (+14p)
Dunlop 75 1/2p (+10p)
Mountview 88 1/2p (+10p)

FALLS
Lloyds Standard Chartered 22 1/2p (-11p)
Nat West 23 1/2p (-11p)
Seaford 21 1/2p (-10p)
Unilever 15 1/2p (-12p)
Bentham Group 70 1/2p (-15p)
Closing Prices ... Page 39

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate 10 1/4%
3-month Bank Rate 12 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 12 1/4%
US: Prime Rate 9 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
2-month Treasury Bill 5 5/8-5 9/8%
30-year bonds 8 1/2-8 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1 9460
£ DM2 9258
£ Sfr 2 5258
£ FF 6 9519
£ Yen 132.20
Index 94.4
ECU 1.6363
ECU 1.6363

GOLD

London: 380.50-380.60
New York: 380.50-380.60
Comex: 380.50-380.60

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$17.50 bid (\$17.65)
Denote latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.45	2.45	2.45
Austria Sch	21.00	21.00	21.00
Belgium Fr	63.00	63.00	63.00
Denmark Kr	2.25	2.25	2.25
France Fr	7.45	7.45	7.45
Germany DM	10.34	10.34	10.34
Greece Dr	333	333	333
Hong Kong \$	10.9	10.9	10.9
Italy Lira	2250	2250	2250
Japan Yen	1165	1165	1165
Netherlands Gld	2.25	2.25	2.25
Norway Kr	11.8	11.8	11.8
Portugal Esc	200	200	200
Spain Ptas	166.5	166.5	166.5
Sweden Kr	11.8	11.8	11.8
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.25	2.25
Turkey Lira	5000	5000	5000
USA Dollar	1.9460	1.9460	1.9460

British Steel faces pressure to cut payout after closure



Sir Robert: confirmation of closure

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Steel faces pressure to cut its dividend and rein back capital spending after tumbled demand triggered a further closure at the Ravenscraig works at Motherwell, Strathclyde, with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

A fall in profits and the exceptional cost of closures is likely to force BS to borrow money for the first time since its flotation in 1988.

Ian Lowe, of Smith New Court, the broker, predicts that BS's profits will be inadequate to cover the cost of dividends in 1992 unless the payout is cut.

Even so, he said: "It is

absolutely vital that they keep capital spending up because if they don't, they won't be competitive enough."

The closure of one of three blast furnaces at Ravenscraig will bring the number of BS jobs lost in Scotland over the 12 months to July to more than 3,000, out of a workforce of 4,500.

The closure also heightens speculation that the former state steel company will withdraw from operations there, possibly before the end of 1991, despite assurances from BS yesterday that the closure was simply a response to falling demand.

Production at Ravenscraig

was reduced to a single blast furnace earlier this month, with the promise of a review at the end of March.

Confirmation by Sir Robert Scholey, BS chairman, of the latest closure suggests the company has accepted there is little prospect of improved demand for up to 12 months. Demand for steel in Britain during January is believed to have been 30 per cent down on the same month last year.

The closure costs are expected to add to the exceptional charges which BS will set against its profits for the year to end-March.

Analysts throughout the City cut their forecasts for BS's profits

yesterday. Mr Lowe reduced his prediction by £54 million to £240 million for the year to end-March 1991. He trimmed £25 million, to £145 million, from his forecast for the year ending March 1992.

Mr Lowe said BS faces severe pressure to reduce capital spending, which has been running at £500 million a year over the past two years, to about £350 million during the coming financial year.

If the company lifts its annual payout 9 per cent to 9p, as expected, dividends should be adequately covered in the current year. However, if Mr Lowe's forecast is correct, profits during 1992 will be insufficient to meet

the £170 million cost of the dividend at that level.

He predicts that capital spending and acquisitions already in train will swallow BS's £100 million of surplus cash and push gearing against its £4.3 billion of shareholders' funds to between 10 and 15 per cent.

Major cutbacks in investment could cripple BS's competitiveness in the future. Mr Lowe said: "BS is used to spending very, very hard, not on expanding capacity, but to improve cost competitiveness. If you cut the level of investment in a spread of three years you suffer the consequences five years down the line."

Lloyds profits hit by bad debt provision

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS Bank has suffered a slump in operating profits due to a 131 per cent increase in bad debt provisions in 1990 to £799 million.

The bank made pre-tax profits of £591 million during the year, at the bottom of City forecasts. Nevertheless, the results are a turnaround from last year's £715 million loss, when Lloyds was forced to make an exceptional £1.5 billion write-off of its Third World debts. Excluding this exceptional provision, profits fell by a quarter.

Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, said current trading conditions were sombre and much worse than people expected when they had celebrated the start of the decade. He added: "Trading conditions are not likely to improve in 1991. There are fundamental changes going on in UK banking, and we are nursing ourselves through the current situation."

Despite the problems, Sir Jeremy announced a 14 per cent rise in the final dividend to 10.3p, to make 15.3p for the year, up from 13.3p.

Brian Pitman, the chief executive, said the Gulf war was hitting some companies harder than the recession. He said: "The war is making the most able managements wonder where they can go." Banks were suffering heavy bad debts because they had over-extended in the years since the last recession, he added.

Lloyds is the first of the main high street banks to report its results for 1990, with

the others due to report in the next two weeks. The size of Lloyds' provisions confirms fears of heavy profit falls throughout the industry, and suggests that Midland will suffer a loss for the second year in succession.

Lloyds' profits deteriorated sharply in the second half of the year, even though they were boosted by a £125 million windfall on currency speculation. Profits between July and December were only £183 million, down 55 per cent, as the recession began to bite.

The currency gain came from Lloyds' Third World debt provisions, which it holds mainly in sterling against dollar-denominated loans. These benefited from the decline in the dollar. Mr Pitman said: "We have a mismatched book, because we believe we eventually will not need all these provisions."

The steepest rise in provisions came in the Lloyds corporate banking division, which was forced to write off £125 million, compared with £8 million in 1989. Only 15 per cent of the provisions were on consumer loans, showing that companies are suffering worse in the recession.

Mr Pitman said the bank had shed 4,000 staff in 1990, and another 1,000 since the start of this year, to cut costs. About 2,500 came from British operations, where many were offered voluntary redundancy or early retirement. The bank paid out £32 million in redundancy last year.

Lloyds is also planning to close 2 per cent of its branch

network this year as part of cost-cutting scheme. In all, the bank contained its cost increase to 5 per cent in the year to £2.46 billion.

The bank also suffered a £208 million property write-down, due to the slump in commercial property prices.

Mr Pitman said the bank had already started to see an increase in leading margins now that Japanese and American banks have scaled down their London operations. He said: "We are like brick-makers. When it moves from a buyers' market to a sellers' market, we raise our prices. Banks are in for some of the widest margins they have seen for years."

He said that the increase in margins would add millions to Lloyds' profits in future and it would be years before competition in the banking industry returned to the levels seen in the late Eighties.

Mr Pitman said Lloyds was well placed to expand after the recession. "A lot of our competitors are very seriously weakened. They have lost their capital." The slackening of competition allowed the bank to increase its net interest margin from 4.88 per cent in the first half to 5.33 per cent by the end of the year.

During the year, capital expenditure rose 17 per cent to £345 million, which Mr Pitman said would be the peak. Lloyds is investing in new computer systems throughout the bank and has installed touch sensitive screens in its finance department.

Timespan, page 36

Leamington Spa to merge with Bradford & Bingley

By JON ASSEWORTH

THE Leamington Spa building society has agreed to merge with Bradford & Bingley, Britain's eighth largest society.

The link, due to be completed by June, will put the Leamington Spa, which has been badly affected by the recession, on a stronger financial footing. Officials have denied that the merger is a rescue.

Leamington Spa, which has a strong presence in the Midlands and the Southeast, has been particularly hard hit by the fall in house prices and mounting mortgage arrears. Cameron Scott, its chief executive, said the society expected "a marginal profit or a

marginal loss" in the current financial year.

Steven Spilsbury, general manager of Bradford & Bingley, said the merger would add 63 branches to its network, many in London and the Southeast where the society is keen to build up its market share. The Leamington Spa name will disappear, but may continue to be used on certain products.

Leamington Spa has been seeking a partner on the advice of the Building Societies Commission, which was concerned that a rising number of bad debts could pose a threat to financial solvency. The society has taken a "worst-case" scenario on its

mortgage arrears, making its financial prospects appear even more bleak.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester, one of Britain's most acquisitive building societies, has been considering a merger with the Leamington Spa. However it is now believed to have decided against further talks because of the weak state of Leamington Spa's mortgage book.

Leamington Spa's 100,000 savers stand to earn a 1 per cent bonus on their investments under the present merger proposals.

A vote on the link is due to be taken soon.

Mortgage rates cut, page 44

Serif team abandons buyout

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE management team that launched a buyout offer for Serif Cowells, maker of the Trivial Pursuit board game, has abandoned its £12.4 million bid to take the company private.

Shares in the company slumped from 33p to 24p on the announcement after opening at 41p. The bid was launched at 50p in December in response to institutional demand for an opportunity to exit from their investment in the company. The management team controls 60 per cent of the group.

Leon Gilewicz, of MacArthur & Co, financial adviser to the management group, said the conditions to the financing package had taken longer to fulfil than expected. In the meantime, economic conditions had deteriorated.

John Fryke, Raymond Deeks and Michael Pratt, the three members of the management team, will return to their former roles within the company.

The abortive deal is one of several recent attempted management buyouts that have been caught out by a combination of economic recession and the increasing reluctance of banks to provide debt finance for deals.

Market caution on Gulf proposal

By GEORGE SIVELL AND COLIN NARBROUGH

FINANCIAL markets reacted cautiously to President Bush's suggestion that Iraq begin withdrawing troops from Kuwait this afternoon.

In New York the price of oil fell to its lowest since mid-July. April crude oil futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) slid 45 cents to \$18.05 a barrel at midday in nervous trading. Prices then rallied 85 cents on Mr Bush's ultimatum before retreating to a seven-month low of \$17.61 in spite of reports that a quarter of Kuwait's oilfields had been set ablaze.

Petroleum product futures were lower, too. March heating oil was down 1.20 cents at 60.20 cents a gallon and March unleaded gasoline shed 0.64 cent to 59.05 cents.

North Sea Brent oil for April delivery was down 28 cents at \$16.57 a barrel.

In lunchtime trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 26 points at 2,917.83. The dollar strengthened but the price of oil and gold slipped. Gold fell to \$358.75 an ounce, \$4.50 down from Thursday's close.

London's FTSE index of 100 leading shares was up 1.9 points at 2,314.3 at the close. Dealers were reluctant to act ahead of what may prove to be

an eventual weekend. The dollar hit DM1.5010 and ¥131.95 compared with DM1.4915 and ¥131.35 at mid-session trading.

Sterling was buoyed by further hopes of a base rate cut. Spain gave no sign, however, of relaxing its interest rates, so giving the Bank of England scope to move within the European Monetary System.

On the money markets the Bank of England maintained its efforts to cool the base rate cut enthusiasts. For the third time in six trading days, the Bank acted overtly, offering money over a seven day period to the market at 13.5 per cent.

Engineering industry sales fell, a seasonally adjusted 5.5 per cent in the final quarter of last year, reflecting a 6.5 per cent decrease in sales to the home market and a 3 per cent fall in exports, government figures showed. Compared with the final quarter of 1989, sales were down 5 per cent.

New orders tumbled 12 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year for a year-on-year fall of 11.5 per cent. Orders on for the same periods were respectively 6 per cent and 5.5 per cent lower.

Yesterday's markets, page 38

Brent Walker steadies shares

By MARTIN BARROW

BRENT Walker, the highly-gearred leisure group, moved to steady a falling share price by confirming that talks were continuing with its lenders to restructure £1.6 billion of bank debt.

Brent Walker shares fell 6p to 45p in nervous trading yesterday, amid speculation that the restructuring talks had encountered difficulties.

However, the company said that discussions were continuing according to plan and had been extended to include a deferred payment of £50 million that is still owed to Grand Metropolitan in respect of the £685 million acquisition of the William Hill bookmaking chain.

The High Court has given Brent Walker until the end of February to pay GrandMet, but the company, which is considering an appeal, has yet to meet the demand.

After the statement, shares recovered to 48p, but still nursed an eight-day loss of 8p. No formal deadline has been set for completion of the talks with the banks, including Standard Chartered, Hill Samuel and Svenska International, but both sides hope to reach agreement by the end of March.

Brent Walker has lodged a separate claim for £160 million off the purchase price, alleging that William Hill did not achieve £35 million profits in the year to end-September 1989, as promised by GrandMet. The two companies have asked Arthur Andersen, the auditor, to settle the dispute through arbitration.

Exchange talks on Italian law

A delegation from the Stock Exchange met the Department of Trade and Industry last night to decide the British response to the controversial Italian SIMs law.

Brought into effect in January, the law requires foreign firms operating in Italy to incorporate there.

The Stock Exchange believes the law to be contrary to the Treaty of Rome and anti-competitive and wants it challenged under EC law. The government has yet to express its view. "We're still looking at it with a view to seeing what action we can take," said a DTI spokeswoman.

GrandMet deal

Grand Metropolitan said it has agreed revisions to its pubs and brewing deal with Fosters Brewing Group. Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman and chief executive, said the deal would mean a net cash inflow to GrandMet of £600 million and a cut in gearing of about 15 per cent.

Harrods workers may demonstrate

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

STAFF at Harrods, the Knightsbridge department store, are expected to protest over the announcement that up to 600 jobs are to be cut at the store. Demonstrations outside the store during lunch breaks are a possibility.

Sean Galvin, spokesman for 'Udaw, the shopworkers' union, said it had called on Harrods to provide the information on which the decision to cut jobs was based.

The union says that it is legally entitled to trading information from Harrods but the group, which is privately owned, does not readily give out financial information.

Udaw represents about 1,000 of Harrods' 4,000-strong workforce, some 2,000 of whom are eligible to join.

The union held a meeting on Thursday evening and industrial action was discussed but it is unlikely that employees will go on strike. Harrods yesterday confirmed

that the £250 million investment and expansion programme, intended to maximise selling space, is to continue without any cutback. Earlier this week the store opened its refurbished sports hall.

Michael Cole, spokesman for Harrods, stressed that 600 was the maximum number of jobs that will go and the eventual number could be less.

Harrods has given Udaw an undertaking that it will not make any employee redundant before meeting with the union on March 5. Mr Cole said that negotiations were continuing.

Soldages, the London department store which is a direct competitor of Harrods, has given an undertaking that there will be no large scale redundancies. It is negotiating with employees over pay and has so far offered a 9 per cent wage increase for the year.

A FALL in the longer identity which in recent years has been the focus of the Central Statistical Office's estimates, shows a sharp decline in the 1989 after holding steady for the previous months.

The drop in the longer identity, after a period since April

Lincoln by short

By JONATHAN

SHORTFALLS in stocks in the products division of 37.4 per cent of the profits to £2.1 billion last year.

Peter Tabery, of the specialist industry company, said that the book value of the division's assets had to contain the losses.

Other divisions are profitable, Mr Tabery said, but the aerospace industry is particularly strong. However, given the is in the autumn aerospace industry viewed 1991 with a final dividend makes an unchanged the year.

Company	Share Price	Change
Admiral	10.50	+0.10
Admiral	10.50	+0.10
Admiral	10.50	+0.10
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Admiral	10.50	+0.10
Admiral	10.50	+0.10

Company	Share Price	Change

Time to exercise a power of caution

IT MAY go against the grain to feel sorry for politicians, but John Wakeham, the energy secretary, has had an unenviable task in pricing the new electricity generators, National Power and PowerGen.

In the aftermath of the distributors' float last year, which sees one of the companies now worth double its selling price and the rest not far behind, even more attention than normal is being focused on the generators' sell-off.

These are extremely fragile markets in which anything could happen in the run-up to the offer's close on March 6. A point off interest rates and a victory in the Gulf, and a resulting three-figure stock market upsurge, would leave the shares looking cheap; bad news from the Gulf and falling markets would leave investors nursing a loss if the issue is not pulled by the City.

Mr Wakeham has chosen a cautious pricing policy that leaves little in the issue for the stag. On the basis of the notional dividend they would pay in the current year, the shares will yield 6.3 per cent, well below earlier City estimates and just 0.5 of a point above the minimum price institutions indicated they would pay.

The distributors, seen as far more stable businesses, although without the generators' chance of healthy profits growth, also yield 6.3 per cent and water approaches 6.6 per cent.

In their favour, National Power and PowerGen not only represent a duopoly but, unlike the distributors, are also subject to little in the way of government regulation. A duopoly they will stay, brave efforts on the part of independent generation projects notwithstanding, until at least the middle of the decade, and they will see little real competition thereafter.

If they fail to exert their best competitive efforts, there is not much the government can do about it, short of dismembering the industry again. The industry faces enormous cost-cutting measures, already fully provided for in both companies' ac-



Careful policy: at the share price announcement were, from left, John Baker, National Power chief executive, John Wakeham, David Clement, a director of Kleinwort Benson, and Ed Wallis, PowerGen chief executive

counts, which will ensure healthy profits growth.

At the same time, the companies are committed to a progressive dividend policy. That policy, however, runs until 1993 only, the *annus mirabilis* when the power industry faces some momentous changes. Long-term contracts for overpriced coal drop out and the companies can take their supplies where they find them and at whatever price.

Beyond 1993, the situation is doubly unclear because the government's remaining 40 per cent share will become available for sale. The main danger is political; a Labour government would not only retain the holding and make life difficult for the industry as a whole but it would also require them to keep buying expensive British coal.

Private investors should keep their cheque books locked away until as close to March 6 as possible and monitor the market carefully. If it stays at the current level, this is not an issue for the stag or the unsophisticated investor. It should be left to the experienced player who can afford to tuck the shares away and take a chance on an eventual bonanza.

Lloyds Bank

LLOYDS Bank is thought to have been the most successful of the big clearing banks last year. If this is true, heaven help the worst.

The bank's figures barely live up to the most pessimistic forecasts. Profits before exceptional items fell 25 per cent to £591 million, even if the bank at least returned to a pre-tax profit after last year's £715 million loss caused by a £1.5 billion provision against Third World debts.

The figures are a stark illustration of how the recession has gripped the country. Domestic provisions rose 270 per cent last year to £732 million as the bank lost more than £2 million a day on a string of corporate and personal failures.

The bad debts prevent the bank recovering from the massive losses it has suffered on Third World debt. The capital ratio rose from 7.4 to 8.5 per cent during the year but is still so dangerously close to the Bank of England's 8 per cent minimum that the bank cannot undertake any significant expansion without a share issue.

Like other banks, Lloyds was guilty of gross overvaluing in the late Eighties, particu-

larly to the services sector. It is now paying the price.

Conditions worsened during the second half, when pre-tax profits fell to just £183 million, 55 per cent lower than in the first six months. And they were flattened by a £125 million write-back from Third World debt provisions. The bank had kept the provisions, which were on dollar loans, in sterling, so it profited as the dollar depreciated.

Without this and the contribution from Abbey Life, the 60 per cent-owned life assurance subsidiary, Lloyds' core business would have made a loss in the second half. The currency gain underlining the risks in modern banking. Had the dollar held its level, Lloyds' figures could have looked very sick indeed.

There are some reasons to be cheerful, but it takes an optimist to see them. Corporate lending margins are rising as competition from Japanese and American banks slackens. Assuming the bank can increase its loan rates by 0.5 per cent in the next two years, it could add a couple of hundred million to profits.

Costs, up by just 5.4 per cent last year, are under tight control. Lloyds quietly shed 4,000 staff last year and another 1,000 since the new

year. Unprofitable outlets are being closed.

But Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, is painfully aware that this year will be better than last. Bad debts have a habit of occurring after the economy has started to recover. In addition, the rise in unemployment could increase the rate of personal defaults.

Profits, optimistically, might reach £480 million this year, putting the shares on a p/e ratio of 18. But at least dividends have continued flowing. The payout for 1990 is up 15 per cent to 15.3p and could reach 17p this year, a yield of 7.1 per cent. Bank shares have risen strongly in recent weeks. On these figures, it is hard to believe they will continue to do so.

Wassall

YESTERDAY'S disposal by Wassall, the aspiring conglomerate backed by Hanson, makes only a bite-sized reduction in borrowings. But every little helps. For Wassall has been sorely restrained by its inability to sell unwanted parts of the Metal Closures group acquired just over a year ago.

Debt has remained far higher than Christopher Miller, the chief executive, intended and probably led to

gearing of about 140 per cent at the December year-end. But when Miller, who cut his corporate teeth as a Hanson employee, reports soon on 1990, he will nevertheless have a positive tale for shareholders.

The key test for a group setting out to follow in Hanson's footsteps lies in how well it identifies and executes its acquisitions. Wassall deserves high marks here. Having found an asset-rich target with static earnings and strong recovery potential, Wassall secured the firmest of platforms for its bid, a 30 per cent stake acquired from Suter, leaving Metal Closures with little fight.

Metal Closures' management has responded well to its new owners, improving margins and generating handsome cashflows. The exception was South Africa, where an attempt to buy in the 23 per cent minority shareholding in MC's local subsidiary was not well advised and met with staunch opposition.

Despite its inability to release cash through asset sales, borrowings that peaked at about £46 million last year have been trimmed by strong cash generation to perhaps £25 million. Given that Wassall's office furniture and Ander luggage businesses are both in recession-hit markets, this suggests that Metal Closures has proved a winner. The gearing is less uncomfortable than it looks too, thanks to that cashflow, which meant interest payments have been covered twice over.

This year, Wassall should find some bargains to buy though it will need to be persuasive if planning to issue paper on a sizeable scale. The shares have returned from the stratospheric rating that came with Hanson's backing and at 131p sell for about 12 times expected 1990 earnings per share. The Hanson connection and the success of Wassall's acquisition programme so far mean they are unlikely to get much cheaper.

Lord Hanson has publicly tipped Wassall as his share of the year. Not surprising, perhaps, given his 8 per cent stake, but it can hardly do them much harm.

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Price	Change
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
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Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282
Abbey Nat	2,282	2,282	2,282

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily %	Yearly %	Daily %	Yearly %
The World	633.8	-0.2	10.4	0.1	10.7
Europe	121.1	-0.2	10.4	0.0	10.8
Asia	1088.8	-0.1	11.5	0.0	11.2
Latin America	112.3	-0.2	11.4	-0.2	10.5
Europe	656.1	0.2	10.2	0.4	10.8
Asia	141.7	0.2	10.0	0.1	10.3
Latin America	458.5	-0.3	8.8	-0.1	10.4
Europe	1232.6	1.1	13.3	1.4	14.0
Asia	200.8	1.0	12.3	1.3	13.0
Latin America	2427.6	-0.4	12.8	-0.4	10.8
Europe	352.8	-0.5	12.8	-0.4	10.7
Asia	257.7	1.1	9.9	1.8	11.8
Latin America	1401.2	1.0	11.7	1.2	12.4
Europe	777.0	0.2	10.4	1.0	11.5
Asia	445.3	-0.2	6.0	-0.2	5.8
Latin America	1222.6	0.4	13.3	0.7	14.3
Europe	68.7	1.0	3.8	1.2	4.8
Asia	100.0	-0.6	16.2	-0.3	17.7
Latin America	694.9	0.0	10.7	0.3	12.0
Europe	759.5	0.7	10.9	0.8	12.1
Asia	2180.2	-0.5	13.3	-0.3	14.9
Latin America	286.2	1.9	12.1	2.0	12.1
Europe	3963.7	-0.5	12.8	-0.5	10.8
Asia	767.8	-0.2	4.0	-0.1	4.3
Latin America	58.0	-0.1	8.8	-0.1	8.8
Europe	1128.5	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5
Asia	1128.5	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5
Latin America	1655.4	0.8	12.8	0.8	13.1
Europe	184.5	0.8	12.8	0.8	13.1
Asia	1380.3	1.4	16.5	1.7	16.5
Latin America	193.0	1.7	16.5	2.0	16.5
Europe	787.8	-0.3	13.1	-0.7	14.8
Asia	112.5	0.0	11.8	0.4	12.3
Latin America	684.0	-0.3	8.8	-0.3	8.8
Europe	418.5	-0.3	8.1	-0.1	10.8

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Value	Change	Unit	Value	Change
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10
Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10	Adams (1000)	100.00	+0.10

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

P O W W O W

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(No other way can we receive any questions please return)



Portfolio

PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 37).

Sec	Prev	Now	Prev	Now	Weekly
1	+6	+7	+6	+5	
2	+7	+5	+6	+3	
3	+7	+5	+4	+6	
4	+8	+9	+3	+6	
5	+8	+8	+2	+4	
6	+8	+4	+6	+4	
7	+6	+5	+7	+3	
8	+4	+7	+4	+5	
9	+6	+7	+3	+6	
10	+5	+5	+6	+3	
11	+8	+8	+8	+3	
12	+7	+6	+2	+4	
13	+6	+6	+7	+5	
14	+8	+5	+4	+3	
15	+8	+8	+4	+6	
16	+6	+5	+3	+4	
17	+4	+8	+3	+7	
18	+5	+5	+4	+7	
19	+8	+4	+5	+2	
20	+5	+8	+4	+5	
21	+5	+6	+3	+5	
22	+8	+5	+4	+5	
23	+7	+5	+8	+3	
24	+7	+5	+4	+2	
25	+5	+9	+5	+5	
26	+5	+7	+3	+7	
27	+8	+6	+6	+3	
28	+7	+4	+5	+3	
29	+4	+7	+3	+6	
30	+8	+4	+4	+3	
31	+6	+7	+2	+6	
32	+6	+5	+4	+4	
33	+6	+6	+7	+4	
34	+4	+8	+3	+6	
35	+6	+6	+4	+7	
36	+8	+6	+7	+4	
37	+8	+6	+4	+3	
38	+6	+7	+8	+2	
39	+6	+5	+4	+5	
40	+6	+6	+7	+3	
41	+5	+7	+3	+6	
42	+7	+5	+3	+6	
43	+7	+5	+7	+3	
44	+9	+8	+8	+2	

Ombudsman rules on payout

By Sara McConnell

A COUPLE who lost £62,000 to a fraudulent adviser after he claimed he was investing the money in National Provident Institution (NPI) capital investment bonds has been paid £31,000 by the company after an unprecedented recommendation from the insurance ombudsman.

Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, said that NPI was not legally liable for the actions of its agent, Andrew Maher, formerly of Berkeley House International, the financial advisers, because NPI had been unaware that any policy documents for bonds had been issued. The company had received no money from Mr Maher. However, Dr Farrand, in his decision of February 11, said that the "extreme hardship" suffered by David and Lynn Garrard in the past two years had led him to make the non-binding recommendation that NPI and the Garrards should bear the loss equally.

Dr Farrand said this was the first time he had made such a recommendation but hoped it would not be the last. NPI said last year that it would not consider compensation but this week welcomed the recommendation. However, Mr Garrard said he was not satisfied with the payment of £31,000. "I am not going to let it drop. We have moved into two caravans, I am taking tablets for stress and I can't get a job because I'm 43. Thousands of people are being ripped off by independent intermediaries."

In September last year, *Weekend Money* revealed that

Mr Garrard, formerly a printer at the *Evening Standard*, invested his £70,000 redundancy payment in what he thought was NPI capital investment bonds, recommended by Mr Maher.

After investing an initial £30,000, Mr Garrard was advised by Mr Maher to take out a £50,000 mortgage to free more money for investment. The Garrards invested a further £40,000. The policy documents turned out to be forged photocopies with the personal details of legitimate policyholders whitened out. Mr Maher paid Mr Garrard back £8,000 but £62,000 was still missing. Mr Maher was convicted of fraud last April and is serving a four-year prison sentence.

A total of £300,000 was invested by Mr Garrard, his father, William Garrard, and 17 other investors, with Mr Garrard leading the fight for compensation. The ombudsman said other cases would be dealt with individually.

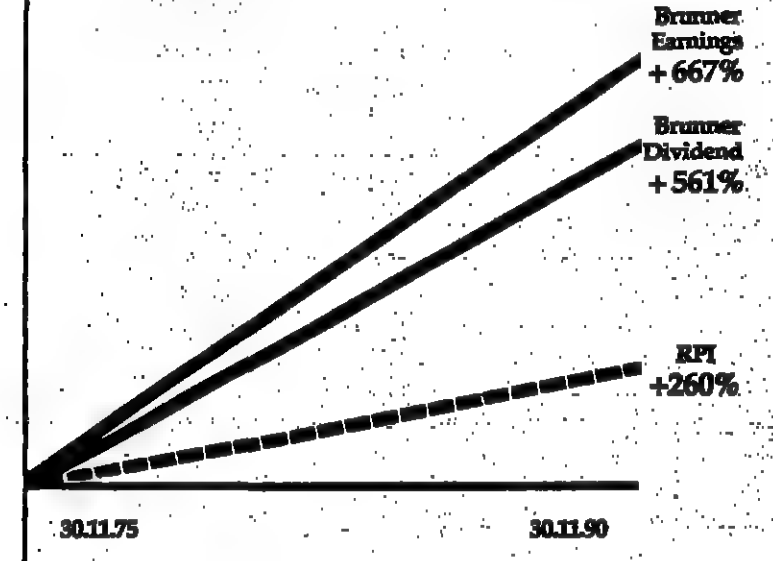


Lost investment: Mr Garrard is still dissatisfied.

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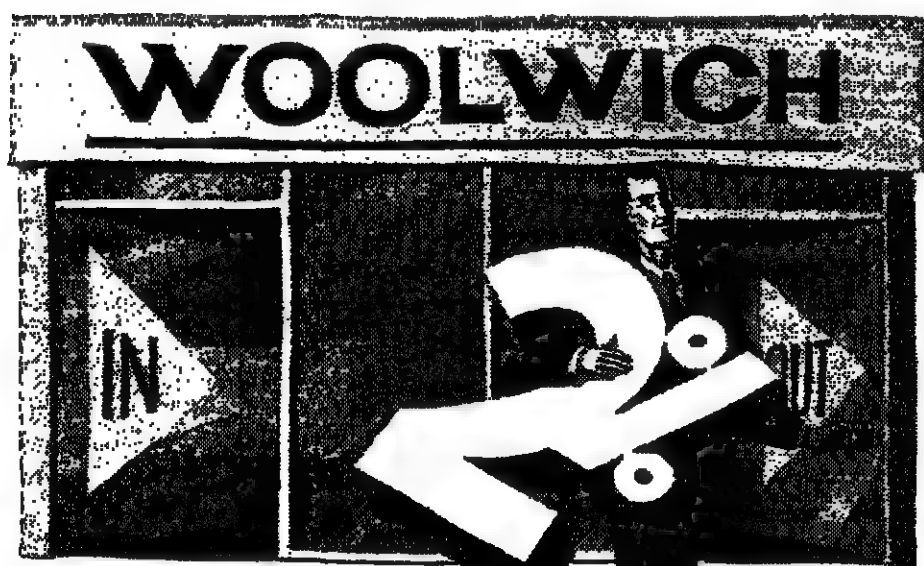
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Fidelity

Savings for children

From Mrs Gertrud Walton
Sir, Mrs Millard's complaint (Weekend Money, February 2) that savings institutions discontinue facilities for the deposit and withdrawal of small sums could be turned to educational advantage. In the management of their pocket money, children might separate their assets into "investment" and "savings".

They would "invest" large sums in the conventional manner, and even learn to compare interest rates. "Savings" accounts would become educational ventures, either run by schools, peer groups, or families.

The value of a piggy-bank would become obvious to the children.
Yours faithfully,
GERTRUD WALTON,
18 St Swithun Street,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Retailers pay deadly price for carrying cash

From J.F. Ezechiel
Sir, In your page 40 article (Weekend Money, February 16) you say that a National Consumer Council (NCC) spokesman has said that cash customers should ask for a discount equal to the credit card service fee.

Within the last fortnight,

less than ten miles from here, raiders shot a young man at a petrol service station. These raiders were not in pursuit of credit card flimies; they were after cash. Even locally, this was not an isolated incident.

Would you please ask the NCC spokesman, who apparently thinks that dealing in

cash costs a retailer less than dealing with credit cards, what price he puts on that young man's life?
Yours faithfully,
J.F. EZECHIEL,
The Stocks,
Crandall,
Farnham,
Surrey.

Tax is iniquitous on elderly in care

From Mrs R. Dinnage
Sir, I read with interest the letter in Weekend Money of February 9 suggesting tax relief for elderly people paying residential or nursing home charges.

Many frail elderly people have to sell their homes to pay for the cost of care, and are then taxed on the interest of the capital created by the house sale. If those fortunate enough to remain in their own home were taxed on its value, this would be seen as a nonsense.

It is equally unacceptable for those who make themselves homeless, in order to have necessary care, should have to pay tax on the capital equivalent of their former home.

As attorney for my elderly, mentally-frail mother, I have tried to keep the capital intact from the sale of her bungalow and use the interest to pay for her care.

To ensure this, I have contributed towards her care costs. I now found I have to

pay a substantial tax bill for my mother, which will erode the capital, and continue to do so, year by year.

In my employment in a hospital, it is frequently my department's responsibility to assist patients, their relatives and friends through the minefield of finding suitable nursing or residential care. Relatives and friends are always shocked and distressed to find the number of "perverse incentives" involved in arranging appropriate care for elderly relatives who are too frail, mentally or physically to return home.

Extra taxation is a further problem which I had not appreciated even though working in this field. Having to sell up one's home and furniture to provide for care in old age is sad; having then to pay tax on the interest on the capital so accrued year after year is iniquitous for those of slender means.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY DINNAGE,
3 Carysfort Road, N8.

Seeking receipts

From R. O. Leavor
Sir, The abolition years ago of the obligation to issue a receipt when payment is made through a bank has brought with it, especially lately, when computer faults are blamed for all errors, the risk that a payer does not get to know if his payment has actually reached the payee. It may, in fact, not have been credited to his account.

This can have disastrous financial implications when the recipient is an insurance or life assurance company, or at a lower level create much hassle when a utility is involved. (I have had a large premium, correctly dispatched to one of the major life assurance companies, lost in the computer machinery. It had died in the period of investigation the company could have continued to plead non-receipt and the burden of proof, perhaps difficult in the mass of papers and easily overlooked, would have fallen on the executors.)

Late or disputed arrival of payment for goods or services can be coped with under existing legislation, but insurance companies or brokers and utility industries, which threaten to cut off supplies, should by law have to send a simple payment acknowledgement to the payer.

Yours faithfully,
R.O. LEAVOR,
76 Heaton Park Drive,
Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Dignified decimals

From Mr David Smith
Sir, Twenty years ago, Britain adopted decimal currency. In Weekend Money (February 9), you suggested that we are "marching towards a pocketful of £5 bits". Is it time to restore the pound's vanishing dignity by adopting de Gaulle's expedient for the old franc: moving the decimal point one place to the left?

We could then enjoy the pleasure of buying *The Times* for 3.5p. We might even return to calling that sum "three-and-a-half pence", rather than three-and-a-half pence. Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMITH,
31 Gordon Place, W8.

High handed treatment by banks

From P.B. Bryan
Sir, I have been following with interest, but no surprise, reports of the tribulations and self-inflicted wounds of the banking industry.

Banks once offered a service to all their customers, including those with small accounts, but now most services are offered only at a high price, without option or even the courtesy of prior consultation on charges.

I thought the following might interest you as yet another example: this morning (February 15) I received a letter from Lloyds Bank informing me that it will now require a £15 annual charge to keep my one share certificate. The charge is effective from February 15, and my account will be debited automatically unless I choose some other method of payment. This is the first and only notification I have had of such a charge. The letter was dated February 11

and posted second class on February 12. Had not the Post Office been efficient, I could have easily received the notification after the fifteenth and, had my account been put into the red by the arbitrary debit, I should no doubt have been charged for the unauthorised overdraft - although no offer to refund the cost of my long-distance telephone call was made when I rang to express my strong dissatisfaction with the bank's behaviour.

I feel more and more that this example of high-handed treatment of small account customers is a further contribution to many people's perception of the banks as determined to extract from them as much as possible in order to invest in highly speculative ventures.
Yours faithfully,
P.B. BRYAN,
28 Drury Street,
Metheringham,
Lincoln.

Hoist danger

From Dr I.M. Jessiman
Sir, Mrs Angus (Weekend Money letters, February 16) will need to beware lest the hoister be hoisted.

Unless she puts in her £5 on the last day of a month and withdraws her £4.50 on the first day of the next month she will get no interest from the Post Office for the £5 for that month.
Yours faithfully,
I.M. JESSIMAN,
17 Grange Drive,
Chislehurst, Kent.

Forever small

From Jackie Mason
Sir, It appears that as a "small" businesswoman I am destined to remain as such. Not that this is my ambition, but that of HM Customs. I find the current VAT limit of £25,000 restricts me to generating a turnover of less than this amount. This level is so low I cannot benefit from economies of scale, which might offset the premium I would have to charge customers. Paradoxically I cannot risk

developing my business for fear of becoming uncompetitive. Are we to remain a nation of "small" shopkeepers?
Yours faithfully,
JACKIE MASON,
179 All Saints Road,
Newmarket, Suffolk.

Interest free

From Ann Braid
Sir, Your article last week stated that the Royal Bank of Scotland charges Access, Mastercard and Visa customers interest from the transaction date. This is the case for cash advances but customers still get an interest free period for general purchases of 25 days after the statement date.
Yours faithfully,
Ann Braid,
Press Officer,
The Royal Bank of Scotland,
42 St Andrew Square,
Edinburgh.

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Ever since the Financial Services Act came into operation its critics have been many and powerful. Providers of financial products have been incensed by the cost of compliance, intermediaries have been concerned by the imposition of a compensation fund whose cost has to be met by them, and investors who thought that the passage of the act somehow guaranteed an end to fraud have been disappointed.

The controversy over the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) raises questions not just about that organisation and its solvency, but about the whole structure of the act, with the Securities and Investment Board (SIB) and the various self regulatory organisations (SROs) creating what many believe to be excessive bureaucracy. The justification of the government in seeking to achieve investor protection in this way was that self-regulation rather than statutory control was

the most effective way to police the business and, incidentally, pass the cost on to the industry.

It may be that the time to question whether self-regulation is attainable, whether we should merge some of the SROs, and who should pay to protect the investor and indeed, whether the whole structure should be replaced by something more radical. Any law that remains riddled with controversy five years after its passage cannot just be allowed to limp on with growing opposition.

So what could be done to improve matters? We could move to a system of licensing operated by the trade department which, although it would mean many more civil servants, would eliminate the need for the present paraphernalia of organisations. Realistically, the chances of the present government moving in

A law riddled with controversy



COMMENT

SIR ROBERT
MCCRINDLE, MP

this direction are poor, but I have a feeling it is how a Labour government would proceed. What then of scrapping the SIB and the SROs and replacing them with a powerful American-style securities commission? This could be a starter, but many of those who support the idea do so because they think it would be less bureaucratic. It would not.

Are we then destined to muddle along with the present structure? Can nothing be done to improve the effectiveness of investor protection? Are all the investors who lose money inno-

cent victims or are some of them too greedy by half? Should not the producers — insurance companies and the like — meet some of the costs of fraud? Does the government really have to wash its hands of responsibility until a Barlow Clowes gains a head of political steam? I do not believe we should be contemplating repeal of the act, but a review.

Firstly, let us concede that the bureaucracy previously in evidence at SIB has been curbed and the basis for self-regulation is now much more practical than theoretical. But should we not

think of rather more direct authorisation by the board, possibly leading to a progressive reduction in both the number of SROs and the influence of Fimbra? Perhaps, as some suggest, we should be thinking of a merger between Fimbra and Lauto, the Life Assurance and Unit Trusts Regulatory Organisation, in the short term. I do not favour such a course because the producers regulated by Lauto are effectively the wholesalers and they have their own investor compensation, the Policyholders Protection Act. I would see Lauto as a continuing force, although its somewhat ponderous enforcement procedures could be slimmed down without adverse effect.

As for Fimbra, there has certainly been a history of bad management and inefficiency, but until we can replace it we

must help it. Bluntly, it was created without the funds to satisfy investor protection and as the number of its members has fallen so the burden has risen on those who remain.

In the meantime, while some thought is given to how the role of the SIB can be elevated and Fimbra progressively run down, the core question is how the investor can best be protected without bankrupting the independent financial advisers who are so important.

Firstly, I see no reason why we should not have a small surcharge on financial products to create a fund that may make it possible to lift the ceiling on compensation payable. Secondly, Fimbra members must be required to contribute even though the honest practitioners get upset by what they see as an imposition. Sir Robert is Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, chairman of the all-party parliamentary financial services group, and adviser to the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association.

THE Halifax Building Society this week cut mortgage rates for new borrowers by 0.75 of a point from 14.5 per cent to 13.75 per cent and held out the promise of a similar cut for existing borrowers after a further cut in base rates (Sara McConnell writes).

First-time buyers are being offered an additional discount of 1.25 per cent off the new rate, bringing their rate down to 12.5 per cent until December 31 this year. A borrower taking out a typical £40,000 endowment mortgage with the Halifax will pay £338 a month. New borrowers who are not first-time buyers will pay £20 less a month, £324.1 instead of £342.71.

The society said it reduced rates because of "the likelihood of a further base rate

Rates cut for new borrowers

cut", but said if there was no cut at the end of April it may have to restore its rate for new borrowers to 14.5 per cent.

The Halifax, which reviews annually the mortgages of its 1.7 million customers, will probably have 1.3 million borrowers who will not feel the benefit of any cut until the beginning of next year. The Halifax set a rate of 14.5 per cent on February 1 and has no immediate plans to cut this.

Barclays bank has cut rates for first-time buyers by 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent for the first year of the mortgage. Existing borrowers taking a new mortgage of £75,000 or

more will also pay 13.5 per cent. There is no cut for existing borrowers, who are paying 14.75 per cent. New borrowers will pay 14.5 per cent.

The Town & Country Building Society has cut its rate for new borrowers from 14.5 per cent to 13.75 per cent but there are no cuts yet for existing borrowers. Other major societies say they are not intending to cut rates until there is another cut in the base rate. The Abbey National said it was waiting for rates to come down another half point before it cut rates, probably by 0.75 of a point. The Nationwide and the Woolwich also

said they had no plans to cut variable rates until base rates fell again. Nationwide's 400,000 customers on annual review will continue to pay 14.5 per cent.

Many lenders are extending fixed rate mortgages or offering new rates. The Household Mortgage Corporation announced this week that it was extending its 11.25 per cent fixed rate mortgage for another two years.

The Leeds Permanent and the Woolwich building societies are launching fixed rate mortgages on Monday. The Leeds is offering first-time buyers a fixed rate of 11.95 per

cent for one year. The Woolwich's rate is 11.9 per cent fixed for two years. The Cheltenham & Gloucester announced an interest-only mortgage with a fixed rate of 11.75 per cent until December 31, 1992.

All investors with the Leamington Spa Building Society stand to receive a 1 per cent bonus if the merger between the Bradford & Bingley and Leamington Spa building societies, announced yesterday, is agreed.

The bonus will be paid on balances at the time of the merger, which is likely to take place in May. A cut-off date, set a few months before the takeover date, will be announced to deter people from opening new accounts just to receive the bonus. Borrowers have also been excluded.

Insurers chase defaulters

By PAUL NUKI

AN INCREASING number of homeowners whose properties have been repossessed are being pursued through the courts by insurance companies desperate to recoup losses on mortgage indemnity policies.

Most mortgage lenders insist that borrowers take out a mortgage indemnity policy if they want to borrow more than 75 or 80 per cent of the market value of their home.

Although the premium is paid by the borrower, the policy protects the lender by guaranteeing that, if a repossessed house is sold for less than the amount of the loan, the lender can claim back the shortfall. The borrower is not protected.

The economic slump means that more houses are being repossessed and more claims are being made by mortgage lenders. Insurance companies have been hit hard and are exercising their right of subrogation to mitigate their losses. This allows them to pursue "salvage" from the defaulting borrower.

Legal & General, which holds about 10 per cent of the mortgage indemnity market and recently added £12 million to provisions against anticipated losses, said last week that it was pursuing all borrowers where there was a chance of recouping debts.

Peter Topple, L&G's account manager (mortgage lenders), said: "Because of the higher incidence of claims, every insurance company is looking more carefully at their subrogation rights and will be pursuing those rights where they feel there is a reasonable chance of making a recovery."

L&G, like other insurers, is primarily concerned with borrowers who have acted irresponsibly and deliberately



Unclear: Eaglesham

walked away from their debts. However, it is clear that they are adopting a more hard nosed attitude than building

societies and other lenders, which must monitor their reputations on the high street.

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said there was evidence that not all borrowers being pursued had acted irresponsibly and that many originally believed that mortgage indemnity policies were for their own protection.

She said: "Our feeling is that this risk should be made clear to borrowers at the outset. That is, you should be told that you are paying for someone else's insurance and that it carries a potential liability with it. None of the mortgage contracts we looked at split that out and by the very name of it, people thought they were buying themselves some kind of insurance or guarantee."

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Warm spot glows at the heart of tough man-manager

By CAROL LEONARD
—BUSINESS—
PROFILE

Sir David Plastow

Sir David Plastow, chairman and chief executive of Vickers, may be the man who makes Challenger tanks, but he would, he says, find it difficult to squirt insecticide on a fly. Tall, debonair and known above all for being one of the toughest of man managers, even his closest colleagues will be surprised by such a revelation.

"I'm terribly wet," he says. "My friends in Cheshire, where we used to live, tried to turn me into a shot but the conversion failed. I enjoyed the walking and the hunches were super but I just didn't like killing things."

It seems, he says, from an incident in his childhood, when he was nine years old. He tried to make a bird jump off a fence, by hitting the fence with an air gun pellet. He missed and hit the bird instead, killing it. "I will never forget that. I was distraught, in tears."

Vickers, capitalised at £540 million, may be one of the biggest defence companies in Britain. But defence accounts for only 18 per cent of its sales. It also owns Rolls-Royce Motors and Riva, the luxury speedboat manufacturer, as well as medical diagnostic and marine engineering businesses.

It was Rolls-Royce Motors that brought Plastow into Vickers. He helped rescue it from the receivers in 1971. Vickers then bought Rolls, specifically, some say, to get its hands on Plastow.

Still only 58, his early success at Rolls meant that he was labelled one of the golden boys of British industry. "Rolls-Royce was not one of the most difficult assignments in the world but he did it well and everyone expected him to go on to greater and greater things," says one seasoned City observer. "Whatever he did, no one was ever going to be satisfied." He is, however, generally perceived to have done a good job at Vickers.

Plastow is aware of these pressures but, now older and wiser, he refuses to allow them to get to him. "I was once a workaholic, for two years in the early Seventies. But towards the end my performance was deteriorating, my private life became tense. I was becoming irascible and my colleagues were having heart attacks. If you are that dedicated to work you lose balance. How can you make a sensible, balanced decision if you are doing nothing but work? You are much better at your job if you are not a workaholic. If you are, when a great opportunity or disaster appears you cannot cope because you have no stretch."

He now insists that everybody at Vickers takes their full holiday entitlement of four or five weeks a year, although he admits that he does not always comply with that rule himself. "Last year was a difficult year," is his excuse. But a holiday chart nevertheless does

the rounds at Vickers Millbank Tower head office every February and must be completed by March.

It is, then, stamina that allows Plastow to achieve all that he achieves without, like so many committed chairmen, becoming a workaholic. So much so that Roger Head, his finance director, defines the word "tough", in its association with Plastow, as being nothing to do with the way he handles people. "It is about absorbing pressure and stamina. He rushes around and jumps on and off aircraft as if he were 15 years younger. Everything he does is well turned out and well presented. He is still pushing himself but no, he is not a workaholic. He is just extremely disciplined."

Determination and discipline are indeed the two traits that perhaps sum up Plastow's personality most accurately. He possesses them both to an almost frightening degree. He attributes both qualities to his father, who was "Victorian, strongly principled and very direct."

His father, or the "old man" as he repeatedly calls him, was Victorian about the need to save money, he did not like borrowing and if the young Plastow was given money it had to put it into a bank account. He was also Victorian about appearance. "You may not be able to afford a well cut suit but you can make sure you've got a clean one," he would say.

Plastow agrees that he could easily have rebelled and gone the opposite way.

"Yes, I could have become a drunken spendthrift and been as sloppy as hell." But he did not. He has not, he says, been "pinker plonker, how's your father, drunk" for more than 30 years and he always thinks of his father if ever there is the remotest chance of him not being "properly cautious in his personal affairs".

Plastow walks with military bearing, even though his army experience was limited to two years' national service in a truck repair workshop in Warrimster, and he fidgets continually. He does "physical jerks" every morning, to keep fit.

He refers to food as "grub" and Barbara, his sculptress wife, becomes "Barbie". He talks about her "being on parade" when she has to come up to London from their Kent oasthouse home.

He is an extremely upright man. But the influences of his father, be they Victorian or not, spill way beyond such personal details.

They affect almost every aspect of the way Plastow conducts his business affairs, and he expects the same strict standards of others.

"I'm a stickler for time keeping. If a meeting is due to start at 11, it starts at 11. If you aren't there, tough. And you had better explain why you didn't arrive on time."

Tales of Plastow sending City advisers back out into the corridor in the middle of meetings, if it becomes obvious that they have not read the required documents, are legendary. "Those disciplines are terribly important to me and they are probably born of my upbringing."

He would, he says, never enter anyone's office without first knocking on the door, even if that door was wide open. "I don't care who they are, even a foreman in a little hut. And it's practical at the same time: it draws attention to the fact that you are there."

And he becomes animated when talking about the need for people to sign their own letters. "I get very cross if they don't. I have never put 'pp' to a letter in my life." He insists upon making all his own telephone calls. "I don't

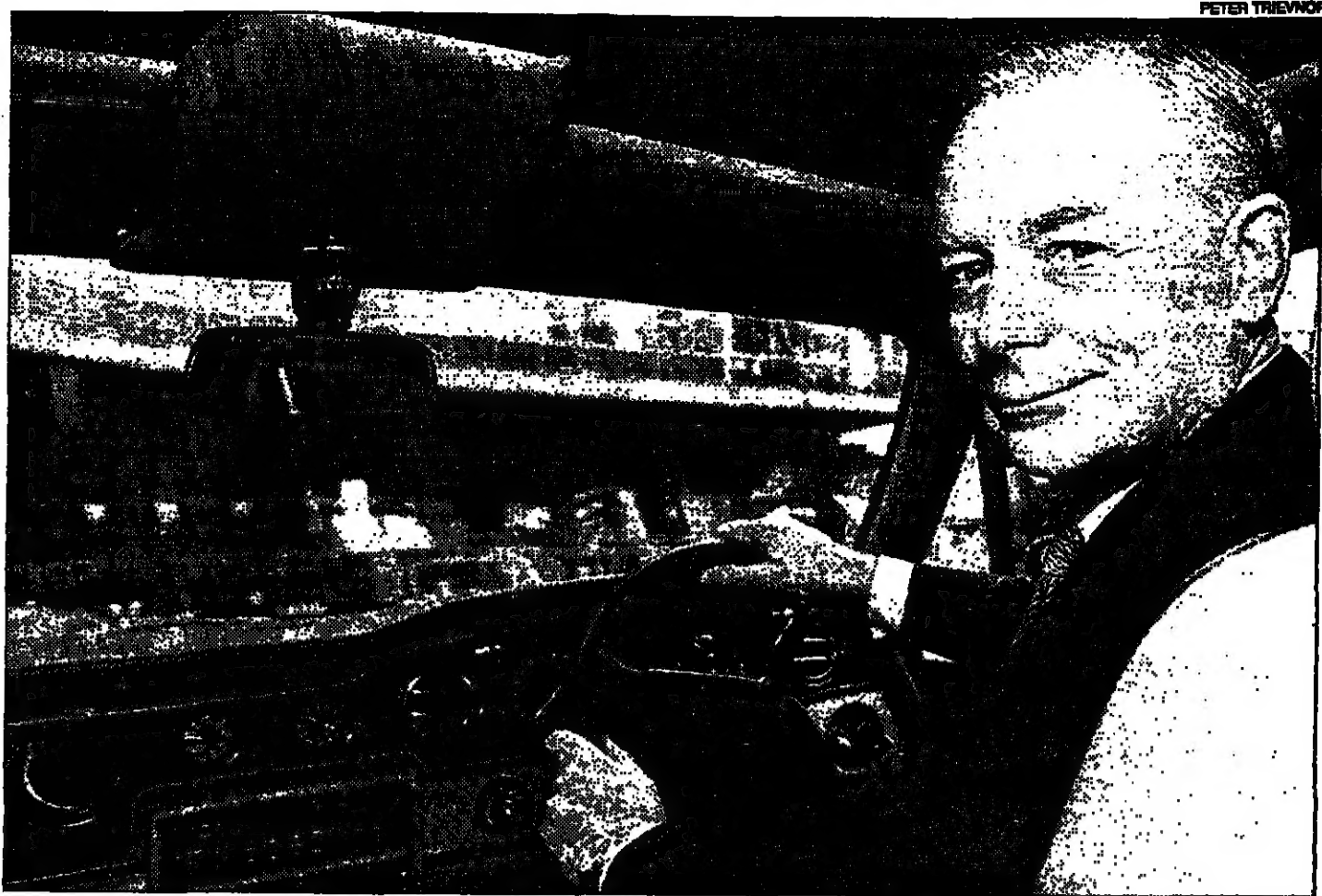
'I'm a stickler for time keeping. If a meeting is due to start at 11, it starts at 11. If you aren't there, tough. And you had better explain why you didn't arrive on time.'

receive them all, they are filtered by a secretary, but I do make them. You can learn things from the way you are handled, about the way a company is run. If you have to go through three layers of people and declare who you are three times, it shows that it isn't being run properly."

But despite being such a demanding disciplinarian, and so relentlessly and at times tiresomely, courteous, Plastow likes to think he has "a certain informality".

Plastow has a strong personality and knows that he could easily ride roughshod over other people in both his public and private lives. "He is aware of his weaknesses," agrees Head, the finance director. But he is hesitant when questioned about Plastow's approachability. Employees are, it seems, not afraid of him, but they are "wary". Eventually, he says: "There is nothing I would not raise with him. But some things are difficult. He can be overpowering and he is moody. If he is in a good mood he will laugh it off. If he is under pressure I might get my head bitten off, but I would always raise it nevertheless."

Plastow counters: "I rarely shout. I can't remember the last time I raised my voice." He is



In the driving seat: Sir David, the chairman and chief executive of Vickers, at the wheel of his personal Rolls-Royce

certainly far too controlled for that. He rarely says anything that has not been carefully considered beforehand. "But I can get a little short with people who I think are wasting everybody's time." He admits to occasional "creative tension" between him and his closest colleagues, although they

very soft, warm; everybody loved her," Plastow says. "My mother spoiled me rotten and so my father became the disciplinarian."

His family came from Grimsby, Humberside. He describes his maternal grandfather as being "a big fishing magnate" and his paternal grandfather as chairman of Grimsby Town Football Club. His father, who died three years ago, was the sales director for a motor dealer. Plastow was sent to boarding school in Bury St Edmunds. But the family was not wealthy.

His parents lived in the small semi-detached house all their married lives. And they took out a second mortgage to pay for their son's education. "It was a nice childhood. The old boy worked hard, was careful with his money, but was generous with me personally. I did want for some things though. We didn't go away on expensive holidays or anything like that."

At school he was popular, became head boy and was captain of cricket. He was also in the rugby and hockey teams. But he was not an academic. Not normally a man to repeat himself, he mentions two or three times that his one regret was not working harder at school.

"I was too busy playing cricket and all those silly things and I cooked it up. It was foolish but enjoyable." He matriculated but left school at 18 with nothing more. "I regret not going to university, I think I would have

enjoyed it." It is as if he has been forcing himself to pay the price for his adolescent "foolishness" ever since.

Although he is not in the least shy, he says that he does sometimes feel "daunted" by "great people, very big people. It's my humble beginnings and all that, my lack of university education."

When he is in the presence of such educated intellectuals he is often lost for words. Plastow, after all, began his career as an apprentice with Vauxhall Motors in Luton, Bedfordshire, and it was there, in a works drama production, that he met his wife, then a secretary.

But just as Plastow's business colleagues are surprised by revelations of his emotion, talk of his own inadequacies and self-descriptions that hint at insecurity, so his personal friends — for he keeps the two worlds strictly separate — say that they do not, in any way, recognise the man his business colleagues allude to. Chandler and Head have never been invited to his family home, except for formal social occasions, like the wedding of his daughter Amanda, aged 28, a nursing sister, or his son, Jamie, aged 31, an army officer. It is his daughter who is most like him.

"Some of my discipline and determination has rubbed off on her. She can be a caring, emotional lady, but she also has a tough edge. I can be tough. When things need to be done, unpleasant things, I

will do them." He stares at me long and hard. An icy, piercing stare. The message is satisfactorily conveyed.

"No," says a puzzled Michael Keall, Plastow's best friend since schooldays, when I tell him about some of the above. "I don't recognise that man at all." Keall, the junior bursar at Magdalen College, Oxford, describes him instead as "always a lot of fun, in those days as he is now."

Keall recalls: "In school plays he always had a character part. He could never be cast in a serious role. He has kept in touch with some of the chaps he worked with on the shop floor at Vauxhall. He has never forgotten his roots."

"And he is brilliant at playing charades at Christmas time. He will roll around on the floor with laughter. He acts the fool and can be extremely funny. He is a very warm man — all his home friends will tell you that."

Being the academic that he is, Keall then tries to work out which persona might be the real Plastow: the cold, detached and disciplined businessman, or the warm, hospitable and entertaining family man.

"How very interesting," says Keall ponderously. "And, do you know, you've just reminded me of something. When I write to him I always sign my letters 'Yours ever' or 'With love to the family'. But he always signs his letters to me 'Yours sincerely', even after almost 50 years."

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Banks lead poll of advisers

By LINDSAY COOK

FINANCIAL advisers are not trusted by the majority of middle aged and elderly people, according to a retirement survey carried out for the Halifax Building Society.

The elderly were slightly more prepared than the recently retired and pre-retired to trust financial advisers. Bank managers are the most popular source of advice, with 44 per cent of the pre-retired saying they would seek their help, but they are no longer considered to have the status they once had.

More than 70 per cent of those questioned considered that shares were too risky to invest in. Half had savings in building societies and one third had bank savings accounts, which were most widespread in Scotland.

South Wales and the West had below average levels of bank and building society savers and more people claiming to have made no financial provision for retirement. On average, 16 per cent nationally said they had made no provision. A large proportion considered the money invested in their home as an investment they could fall back on.

Insurance policies had been taken out by 40 per cent of those questioned in preparation for retirement. Another 12 per cent said they had taken out a special investment plan, 8 per cent were making additional voluntary contributions to their company pension schemes and 6 per cent had personal equity plans or unit trusts.

Credit is largely avoided. Major items such as cars, furniture and electrical appliances tend to be bought before retirement and are expected to last.

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